

“Children, Honour Your Mother and Father” – The CTMI Way

The history of our saga with CTMI had its roots for all of us in our families. Every testimony has a common pattern. Relationships changed for the worse in families after members distanced themselves shortly after involvement with CTMI. Instead of experiencing the joy of unity in the love of Christ and power of the Holy Spirit, there was the grief and pain of separation. When we expressed this pain there was the standard response all bible based cults use - **"Christ did not come to bring peace in families but a sword"**.

We all experienced what Carol Giambalvo says in her study "Family Interventions for Cult Affected Loved Ones":

“ One of the first things a cult does is undermine the outside relationships of a new recruit. The primary attack is on the parents and family. For this reason, approaching the cult member armed with negative information about the cult, no matter how credible it seems, will not work. It is important to remember that because of the cultic pressures and manipulations, the cult member's family of origin has lost its credibility.

And Livia Bardin in "Coping with Cult Involvement - A Handbook for Families and Friends"

Referring to the early recruitment stage she says :

“ Uplifted by an overwhelming sensory experience, cult recruits are kept off balance and prevented in effect from going home or any other place where reason might set in.

Because it breaks the member's isolation and opens the door to the world outside, communication is precisely what the cult seeks to discourage. Because he is now in 'Magic Land' association with anyone who disagrees might dim or pollute the purity of his faith.

Cult members are encouraged to disentangle themselves from any drags on progress. Things that seem important to those on the outside - going back to school or work, showing up for Thanksgiving or sister's wedding or Grandpa's funeral - simply pale into insignificance against the vibrant excitement of the group's activities"

Of course once the early recruit is fully entrenched, superficial contact is often allowed. That has been the experience of most of us. Early radical separation and cutting off followed later by superficial interaction. No meaningful discussion of the real issues is permitted.

We can also relate to Bardin's additional insights:

“ You will be told that great spiritual leaders inevitably face scorn and antagonism of the establishment, that you are closed minded and unwilling to entertain new possibilities. The cult member will most likely claim that the changes you see in him are his choice and are good for him. The weight of public opinion

today tends to support their assertion and accept their picture of you as 'controlling', or 'refusing to separate' or 'closed -minded'.

It truly can be very hard for parents to acknowledge and accept that a close family member has rejected their beliefs and values and adopted others. It is even more distressing when the manipulations of others seem to induce the change"

The latter comment on "**manipulations of others**" is particularly relevant when we consider this extract from **Miki Hardy's "Teachings"** on the CTMI website. The title is "**Children, Honour Your Father and Mother**"

“*If a Christian does not feel convinced he should do something that he has been advised to, but in his heart he is sincere and true, then Jesus is still well pleased with him, even though to the natural eye, it would appear that he is being disobedient or rebellious because he isn't doing what is asked of him. It follows, therefore, that a grown-up child can decide to do something against his parents' wishes and still honour and respect his parents sincerely in his heart.*”

What kind of mumbo jumbo double speak is this?!

It seems to us a translation would be something like this "It doesn't matter what God's word says - as long as you are sincere and act from a "pure heart" - go ahead and disobey and dishonour and hurt your parents. Jesus will be pleased! They are in "the natural" and will see your actions (advised by me!) as rebellious but that's OK. As long as you have honour in your heart - a sincere and true feeling. **You can honour them in your heart while dishonouring them in your behaviour!** Anyway - you are an adult now so God's instructions to children no longer applies!"

So, adult children marrying behind their parents back, leaving their homes to live down the road with CTMI "mothers and fathers", leaving the country for CTMI camps against parents will while engaged in studies at parents cost, refusing to engage, lying about being kicked out of homes, manipulating money for directorships in Mauritius, accusations of persecution, withdrawal of relationship, threatening taking out restraining orders, no longer seeking parents advice on major issues like before, "we will have nothing to do with you until you repent and leave CPG", etc etc **is all justified at one camp speech by Apostle Miki Hardy!!!** Any niggling doubts or remorse at the hurt caused to devoted parents simply evaporates.

Of course all Christians believe that if parents insist on their believing children committing gross sin - then that instruction must be dishonored and disobeyed. (As the disciples said when told not to preach the gospel - "We will obey God rather than men"). However we are not aware of one such example in our history with CTMI.

God's word is clear on love and respect in family structures and nowhere mentions any age limit!

Love and Honour shows in behaviour NOT some mystical feeling in the heart encouraged by a false teacher!

“**John 14:15** "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

1 John 2:3-4 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. [4] Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

1 John 5:2-3 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. [3] For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

2 John 1:6 And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

1 John 3:18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

Family relationships feature in three of the ten commandments. Jesus honoured his mother by requesting care for her while in agony on the cross! Most of the New Testament letters specifically address the issue of sound family relationships. Family images are used to describe God's relationship with us and His church. (Father – children; Husband – Bride; brothers and sisters). This is why it is a tragic misrepresentation of Christianity when a so called "church" is responsible for grief and pain in families.

What makes it worse is the scurrilous attempts to justify this by teaching adoring followers that Jesus is OK with this.