

Church History



Church History

- *Introduction to Church History*
- *The Ancient Church* AD 1st-3rd centuries
- *The Rise of Christendom* AD 4th-5th centuries
- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6th-10th centuries
- *The Age of Crusades* AD 11th-13th centuries
- *The Renaissance* AD 14th-15th centuries
- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16th century
- *The Age of Enlightenment* AD 17th-18th centuries
- *The Age of Revolution* AD 19th century
- *The Modern Age* AD 20th century
- *The Postmodern Age* AD 21st century



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- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16th century
- *The Age of Enlightenment* AD 17th-18th centuries
- *The Age of Revolution* AD 19th century
- *The Modern Age* AD 20th century
 - *Modern Empire-Building*
 - *Post-War Religion*
 - *Conflicts of the “Greatest Generation”*
 - *The New Conservatism*
 - *Backlash to the New Conservatism*



The Modern Age

- There's always a pendulum swing in society
- 1966 The Hare Krishna cult was founded
- The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) was founded in New York City when 70-year-old A. C. Bhaktivedanta (AKA Swami Prabhupada) came to America
(NOTE: He was born "Abhay Charan" in Bangladesh, then was later given the title, "*Bhaktivedanta*"—which means "devotion to complete knowledge"—and finally called "*Prabhupada*"—which means "one who takes shelter in the Lord")



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 - Having been educated in polytheistic Hinduism (a version of Gaudiya Vaishnavism that had emerged 500 years ago), Bhaktivedanta came to understand that all religions really only point to one, true Deity —Krishna, the eighth incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu, the only clearly Supreme Being
 - Whether you call him (most accurately) Krishna or Hare (his feminine aspect, or consort, etc.) or Rama (an earlier avatar of Vishnu, who is the Hindu personification of sensual pleasure) or Jesus Christ or Buddha or whatever, it's still the same God that all of humanity is praying to and his current incarnation on the Earth is clearly Bhaktivedanta, Swami Prabhupada



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- You, too, can finally be in an intimate relationship with God, by chanting various derivations of his names over and over and over and over—
Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna
Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare
Hare Rama, Hare Rama
Rama Rama, Hare Hare
(the mantra for which the cult is known)

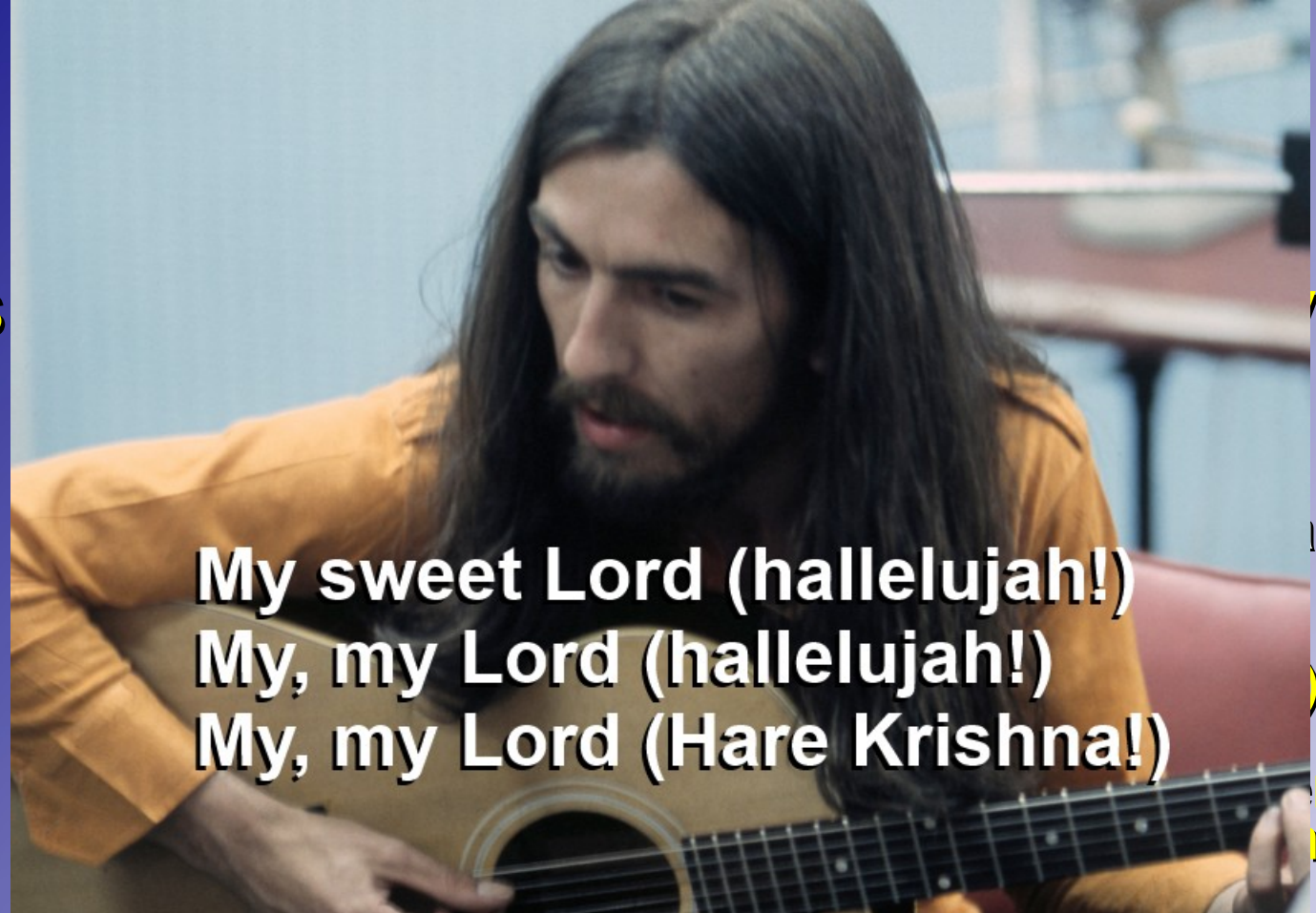


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 - Bhaktivendanta's message of a pure and kinda mindless (or "transcendental," *beyond* the mind) religious experience hit the West at just the perfect time, when disaffected young people were tiring of their parents' superficial and rules-laden conservative religion
 - And it certainly didn't hurt that Beatle George Harrison loved him (he'd become enamored with Eastern religions in 1965 while filming the Beatles movie, *Help!* and later lived out his connection with the subculture by taking part in organizing *The Concert for Bangladesh* in 1971)



- There's
1966



**My sweet Lord (hallelujah!)
My, my Lord (hallelujah!)
My, my Lord (Hare Krishna!)**

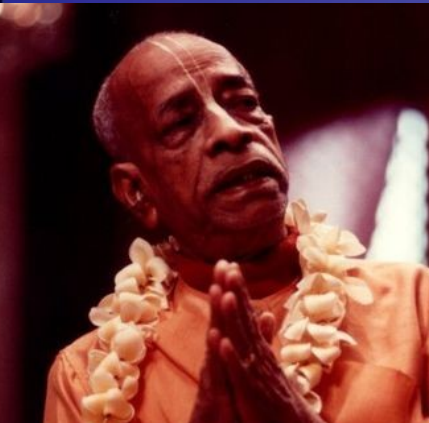
- And it certainly didn't hurt that Beatle George Harrison loved him, and even wrote a hit song about him ("My Sweet Lord" in 1970)
(which initially confused a number of listeners because through most of the song, it actually sounds like he's singing about Jesus)



- The other Beatles similarly worked “Hare Krishna” into several of their later songs, and Indian concepts and practices such as meditation, yoga, gurus, etc., became faddishly cool for really “hip” people to take an interest in

The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Even by the end of the 1960s, ISKCON was coming under fire for using “brainwashing” techniques that undermined its members’ critical thinking
 - For instance, adherents’ diets are strictly regimented to be completely vegan—and due to the belief that food retains the consciousness of the person who cooked it
 - They are also called upon to renounce all worldly goods and aspirations, focusing only on dancing more and chanting more to achieve a state of “Krishna consciousness” that moves beyond understanding, logic, or even individual personhood, giving themselves utterly and completely to the devotion to their guru
- (NOTE: ISKCON members are encouraged to chant the names of God more than 100,000 times a day—which is going to begin to affect *how* you're even *able* to cognitively process more complicated things)





- Most famously, they're called upon to raise funds
 - In the 1960s and 1970s, cult members selling books and flowers became so ubiquitous at public places like airports that anti-solicitation laws had to be constructed to prevent people from being accosted as they exited their planes
 - Everything in the life of the cult is centered around the worship of Krishna through Bhaktivendanta—and all so that members can achieve an ecstatic state of simple joy in this life, and be reincarnated as a higher being in the next
 - How would *you* respond, as a Christian?



The Modern Age

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1966

1967

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Israel fought the Six Day War

- Israel had been at best tense and at worst in open conflict with most of its neighbors since its modern founding in 1948

- In 1967, Egypt rattled its sabre by amassing most of its troops along the Israeli border on the Sinai peninsula, and Israel responded by bombing the snot out of them, destroying most of Egypt's air force

- Sensing that their time had come, Jordan and Syria joined with Egypt in attacking Israel—which was, at that time, one of the best-trained military forces in the world

- As a result, a week later, a cease-fire was declared, and Israel—as the victorious party, took the Golan Heights in Syria, the Gaza strip from Egypt, and—most crucially, the West Bank from Jordan

(they even occupied the Sinai for a while)



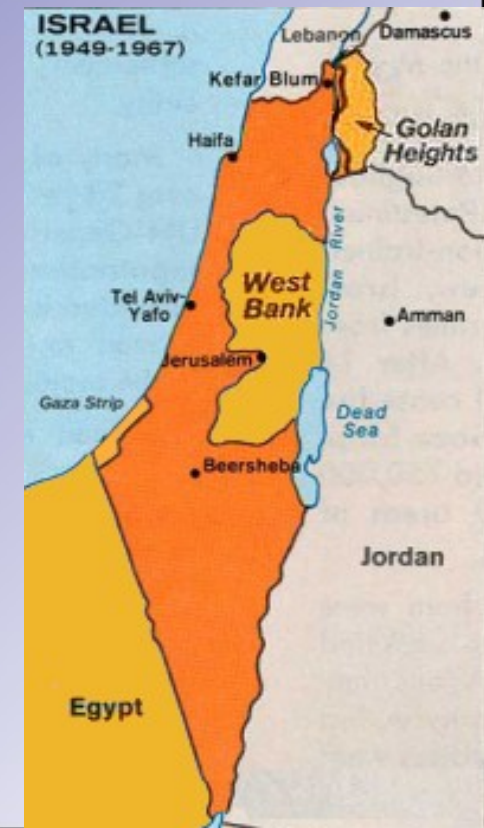
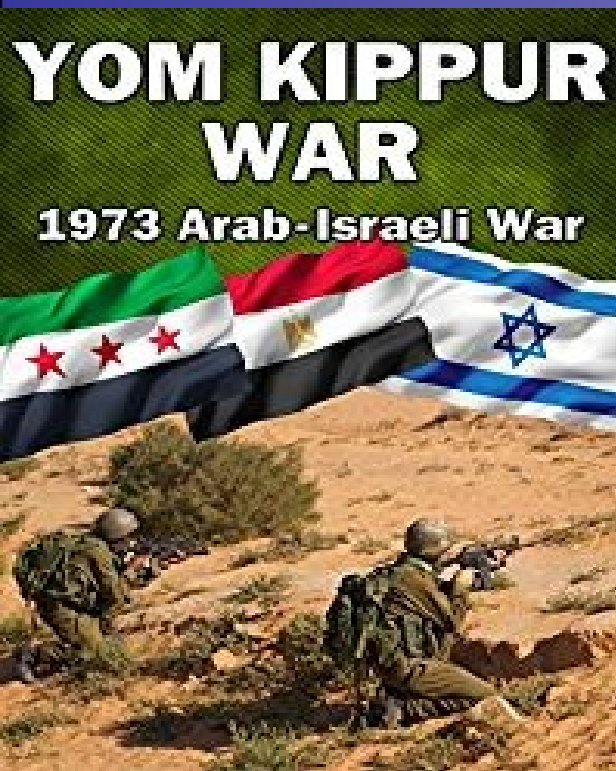
The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Israel even attacked the United States in the War
 - The U.S.S. Liberty was patrolling in neutral waters in the Mediterranean, monitoring the whole situation when, on June 8, the ship was struck by several rockets from Israeli fighter planes—and then hit with a follow-up attack by an Israeli torpedo boat
 - The Israelis claimed that they'd confused the ship for an Egyptian one (kinda hard to do)—but the U.S. chose to let it go for diplomacy's sake (even though 34 crewmen were killed and 171 more crewmen were wounded in the “mistake”)



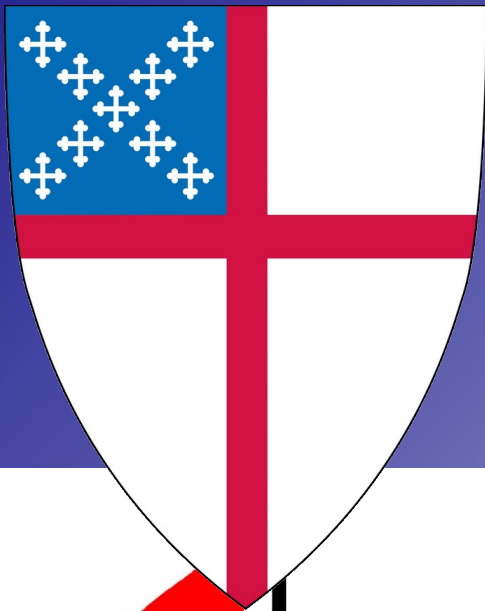
The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Israel even attacked the United States in the War
 - But Israel demonstrated to its neighbors and to the whole world that they were a military power to be taken seriously—and in the span of a week, they significantly expanded the size of their territory (including *all* of the land surrounding Jerusalem)
 - All of this came back to haunt them in 1973 during the Yom Kippur War...



The Modern Age

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 - 1966 The Hare Krishna cult was founded
 - 1967 Israel fought the Six Day War
 - 1968 The United Methodist Church was founded
- If you'll remember, the Methodist *Episcopal* Church has been around for centuries
("Methodist" being an *adjective* to describe how to do Episcopal Church "correctly")



The
United
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 - If you'll remember, the Methodist *Episcopal* Church has been around for centuries and many of the branches of "Methodist"-type churches had come together in 1939 to form simply the "Methodist Church"
 - (NOTE: The whole point of the name was to remove any additional descriptors like "Episcopal" or "South" or "Protestant" that people might trip over in reuniting)



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- In 1968, the Methodist Church voted to join with the smaller Evangelical United Brethren Church to form a new, *United Methodist Church*

(NOTE: On paper, the United Methodist Church is a fairly conservative mainline denomination—the second-largest Protestant denomination after the Southern Baptists)

(for instance, their doctrinal statements clearly indicate—using language that is very similar to the wording that the Covenant uses—that "sexual relations are affirmed only within the covenant bond of a faithful monogamous, heterosexual marriage, and not within same-sex unions or polygamy")



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(NOTE²: In *practice*, however, 60% of United Methodists said "homosexuality should be accepted," 49% supported same-sex marriage, and several conferences and jurisdictions have now approved openly gay and lesbian clergy—so whether they're liberal or conservative is kind of a hotly debated topic in the UMC right now...)



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- Reaching out to the new counter-cultural movement known as "hippies"

(NOTE: The term "hip" as an expression of being "in the know" was coined back in 1902 by cartoonist Tad Dorgan, possibly in reference to men carrying illicit liquor in hidden hip flasks)

(NOTE²: To be "hip"—or its cognate, "hep"—was to be "cool" in a world of "squares," morphing into being a "hipster" in a 1944 article by Harry Gibson)

(NOTE³: Later, the liner notes to the 1959 comedy album *"How to Speak Hip"* pejoratively defined a "hippy" as "a junior member of Hip society, who may know the words, but hasn't fully assimilated the proper attitude"—i.e.; "hipster" wannabes)

(NOTE⁴: But by the time of a 1965 series of articles by Michael Fallon, the term was being used almost exclusively to describe the "free love" drug culture of "flower children" such as those in San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury area)

FIRST OF A SERIES

A New Paradise For Beatniks

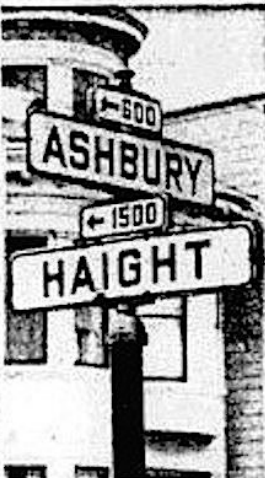
By MICHAEL FALLON

Five untroubled young "hippies" sprawled on floor mattresses and slouched in an armchair retrieved from a debris box, flipped cigaret ashes at a seashell in their Waller Street flat and pondered their next move.

It was 5 in the evening. Dinner was not yet on the stove; the makings for dinner were nowhere in sight.

No one appeared worried, though. Or even interested.

The same apathy controlled the discussion of their next pad, a move forced on them by a police marijuana and drinking party raid the week before. "Maybe we'll move to the Fillmore," said Jeff, 21, the oldest. The proposal drew loud snickers and seemed doomed.



WHERE THE ACTION IS
A sort of "West Beach"

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- Reaching out to the new counter-cultural movement known as “hippies” was a young Christian and Missionary Alliance pastor named David Berg

- After losing his license with the CMA due to sexual misconduct with a church employee, Berg began his own church, focused on the hippie movement

- Originally called “Teens for Christ,” Berg's group comprised a new “family” for disaffected youth, with Berg as the surrogate father

(NOTE: He was known by most COG members as “Dad” or “Father David” or “Moses David”—or just “Mo”—or “King David” or eventually, “Grandpa”)



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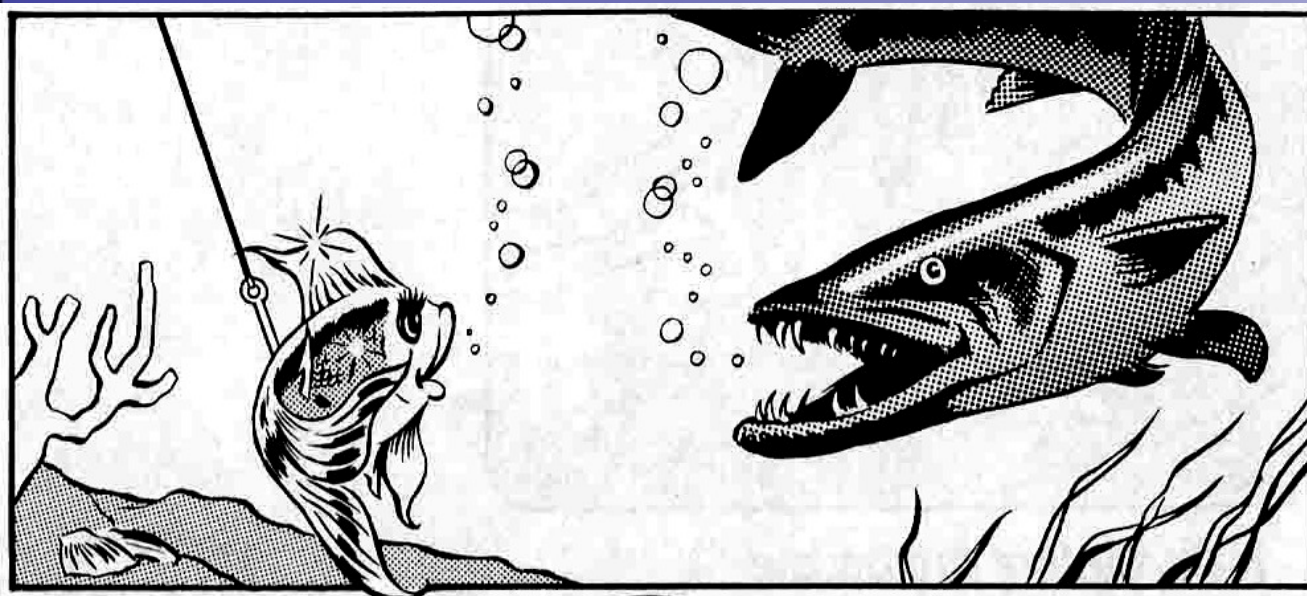
- Berg taught a new sexual freedom that emotionally connected with the young people reacting against their parents’ conservatism

- He soon left his own wife and began a relationship with his church secretary, Karen Zerby (whom he called “Maria”) and taught his followers that God loved sex, and wanted His people to have as much of it as they could



The Modern Age

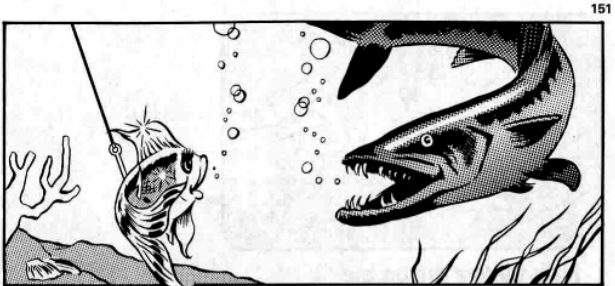
- Funky little teaching moment—
 - This “sexual freedom” had some very unique ripple effects
 - First off, sex became common as a part of leadership meetings, worship services, etc.
 - Second, Berg began printing information for the COG about the importance of sex in the home, publishing nude pictures of Maria... and various young children... and writing articles in his regular, illustrated letters about the need to let children be the fully sexual beings that Berg argued God had made them to be
 - Third, by 1974, Berg instituted the practice of “Flirty Fishing,” usually explaining it in comics form



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - This “sexual freedom” had some very unique ripple effects
 - The basic idea of “Flirty Fishing” (or “FFing”) was for female church members to use their feminine wiles to lure men in so that they could share the Gospel

(NOTE: In college, we called a prevalent variation on this “missionary dating”—when someone would date a non-Christian in hopes that somehow, they'd end up turning to the Lord in the process)



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 - But Berg linked Scriptures such as Matthew 4:19 (“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”)



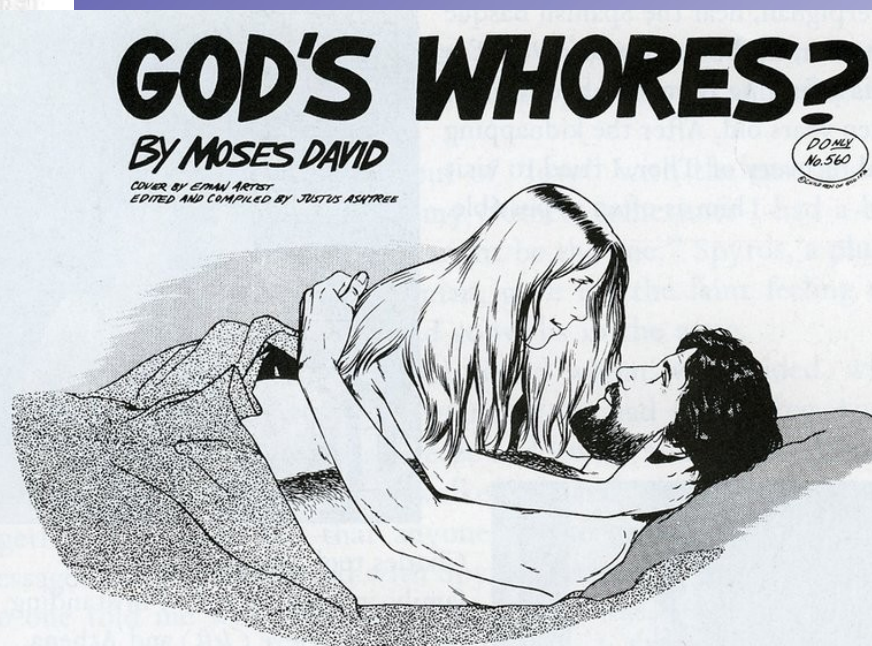
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 - But Berg linked Scriptures such as Matthew 4:19 with others such as 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
 (“You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”)



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 - But Berg linked Scriptures such as Matthew 4:19 with others such as 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 to teach that women should be willing to actually have sex with men in order to show them “the love of God”
 - In fact, he was open about calling such evangelists “God’s Whores” and “Hookers for Jesus”



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 - Within a few years, Berg realized that very few men were being *converted* this way, but a lot of men were nonetheless being *reached*
 - So “Flirty Fishing” quickly became the primary source of revenue for the COG, through open prostitution

(NOTE: Again, from the *women's* perspective, this was perceived mainly as an act of *worship*, with them giving their bodies—which weren't really *their* bodies any more—so that the work of the Lord could be supported)

(even though they were married or in committed relationships, most of the women in the COG cultivated sexual relationships with various men to gain resources, became mistresses of officials to help with church immigration into new countries, and—most pointedly—joined full-time escort services to bring money into the COG)



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(NOTE²: Since most of the women were now having sex with multiple partners as often as possible, and since the group preached against birth control, the number of children in the cult skyrocketed—they averaged roughly 700 births each year, until the *majority* of cult members were under the age of 18, changing the dynamics of the group significantly)



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 - Within a few years, Berg realized that very few men were being *converted* this way, but a lot of men were nonetheless being *reached*
 - In 1986, leadership issued a directive that any sexual contact between an adult and a minor constituted “an excommunicable offense” and promised that this would be strictly enforced

(NOTE: “Flirty Fishing” and “Escort Servicing” still continued openly throughout the 1980s, but since the death of Berg in 1994, the cult has mostly downplayed it—as well as having made great strides in significantly reducing the amount of child sexual abuse within its ranks)



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Today, the cult has renamed—and re-branded—itsself as “The Family International,” ministering in 95 countries around the world, and sharing its unique understanding of having a relationship with God (including that to have a full worship experience, you should mentally picture having actual, physical sex with Jesus, and make sure to have an orgasm as part of it)

(NOTE: They also teach the importance of relying on “spirit helpers”—such as angels, famous deceased people, or even mythological gods—to help you grow closer to God and fight off the attacks of demons)

(NOTE²: They also teach the power of God's “keys to the kingdom” that He gave us to overcome obstacles in life *and* to power our own angelic, spiritual spaceships, called “key craft”)

(and all of this is crucially focused on *family*, and on building your children up in the same faith...)

- How should we as Christians respond to this cult?



The Modern Age

- There's always a pendulum swing in society

1966 The Hare Krishna cult was founded

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The Children of God cult was founded

1969 **Bloody Thursday**

- The University of California's Berkeley campus had for years been a hotbed of political liberalism, and the 1964-1965 "Free Speech Movement" had started there among its students

- Sproul Plaza—outside Sproul Hall—had been designated as a "free speech area," where students could express themselves in a public forum in any manner that they wanted to
- But UC Berkeley still restricted that free speech to its students, and they required that you be willing to show your ID and prove your status as a registered student
 - When, in 1964, a student speaking refused to show his ID, he was detained by campus security—leading to a stand-off against 3,000 other students who were demanding his release and his right to speak



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- **So when the university acquired a plot of land adjacent to the campus, but lacked the funds to develop it, students asked for it to be their own free speech area—called "The People's Park"**

- The university didn't approve, but nor did they actively condemn the plan
- So the students—along with several local business owners who wanted to improve their neighborhood—began construction of a park on the land, without the university's permission
- In fact, the university had developed plans to build a new sports field on the land, but met with park planners on May 6 and said they'd be willing to consider alternative ideas



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- **So when the university acquired a plot of land adjacent to the campus, but lacked the funds to develop it, students asked for it to be their own free speech area—called "The People's Park"**

- On May 13, the school announced that they would be building a fence around the property, since park planners continued to work in it without authority and students began protesting the plan

- Early on May 15, a fencing company—supported by 250 police officers—came to build the fence and 3,000 protesters arrived to stop them

- One of the protesters took a microphone and began shouting, "Let's take the park!" and a full-scale riot began



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - By that point in the day, it was nearly 4,000 protesters against 159 city police and campus security officers
 - The protesters opened a fire hydrant and began pelting the officers with rocks and bricks, while the police responded with nightsticks and riot batons
 - Governor Ronald Reagan authorized the police to use whatever force they deemed appropriate to defend themselves and stop the rioters
 - So the overwhelmed police called in more deputies—for a total of 791 officers standing against a crowd of now 6,000 protesters—and began firing tear gas and shotguns into the crowd
(the expressed intention was to use rounds loaded with birdshot, but at least some of the shotguns appear to have been loaded with 00 ammo as well, judging from the hospital records of protesters afterwards)



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- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - By that point in the day, it was nearly 4,000 protesters against 159 city police and campus security officers
 - **Several officers were injured—one was knifed—128 protesters were injured, and one student was killed**
 - Governor Reagan declared a state of emergency—against the request of the city council—and sent in the California National Guard to restore order, arguing, “Once the dogs of war have been unleashed, you must expect things will happen, and that people, being human, will make mistakes on both sides.”



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- Governor Reagan declared a state of emergency—against the request of the city council—and sent in the California National Guard to restore order

- **Much of the protest against the occupation by the National Guard was benign—such as hippies quietly placing flowers in the barrels of the Guardsmen's rifles but they also gave the troops lemonade spiked with LSD, brownies laced with marijuana, etc.**



- Civic leaders attacked Reagan and the authorities for taking an incendiary situation and turning it explosive with their reactions
- Reagan countered by saying, “All of it began the first time that some of you who know better—and are old enough to know better—let young people think that they had the right to choose the laws they would obey, as long as they were doing it in the name of social protest.”
- So what's the correct response?

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 - Several officers were injured—one was knifed—128 protesters were injured, and one student was killed
 - **The incident became a touchstone for the whole era—liberals vs. conservatives, flower children vs. the military, people who “just wanted to build a park” vs. the Establishment**
 - 177 UC Berkeley faculty members said that they were “unwilling to teach until peace has been achieved by the removal of police and troops,” and the university voted to let the students and community build their park

(NOTE: It didn't help when, on May 20, the National Guard helicopters dropped tear gas to disperse a peaceful demonstration of 1,000 protesters on the campus)

(yes, the crowd was in violation of the martial law ordinance temporarily prohibiting people congregating in public areas in groups of more than four, but even Reagan called it “a tactical mistake”)



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 - **The anti-war, anti-Establishment, counter-cultural movement in America finally had its “Alamo” moment, and the movement exploded in growth**



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Woodstock

