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# Young Adults Raised In High Control, Destructive Groups

## Introduction:

The issues faced by young adults born and/or raised in a destructive group tends to be all pervasive, particularly if the group experience was communal. These issues, while similar to those faced by adults (former members) who had a "prior life", are far more consuming. Therefore, the resolution of these issues require a different approach and understanding

## Issues Faced:

1. Identity Issues. The young adult has no other identity than the one "imposed" by the group. Usually this person is developmentally delayed

— Destructive groups ignore the stages of human development/maturation. They seek to "create"/make the perfect disciple, and use verses like "*Raise a child in the way he should go...*" Proverbs 22:6

— Young adults who leave destructive groups frequently attempt to regain their childhood. They may comment, "*I was never allowed to be a child. I never could do the things other kids could do.*"

— In the "world" maturation is guided by parents. It is prevented/controlled/stifled in high control groups. So when the young adult goes out into the world, chronologically they are beyond the age of "guidance" by society, yet they are expected to act and respond as an adult.

— Self determination and individuation is diminished preventing normal decision making for that age.

2. Ethical Issues.

— Often the young adult has no moral compass or internal boundaries and there is confusion at the deepest level. Typically, the ethical framework was