

Twyford on Twelve Tribes

By [Mid Devon Gazette](#) | Posted: October 04, 2013



There is more to Stentwood Farm than fresh bread and smiles

SOME people still smack their children, and I'm sure many more are tempted to do so, but would anyone want to hit them regularly with a stick?

The days when children were frequently beaten are thankfully gone, unless, that is, you're a member of a religious community near Dunkeswell.

The Twelve Tribes community has been at Stentwood Farm for more than

15 years, and many people know them for their home-grown food, wonderful bread and hippy-style clothing and hairstyles.

But until the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children made a formal complaint about them, I doubt many knew that beating their children with a reed rod on bare flesh was a central part of their faith, or how strange that faith was.

The NSPCC intervened after action was taken in Germany to remove children from a branch of the Twelve Tribes there. It has complained to Devon County Council and the police.

The Twelve Tribes website is a peculiar place – lots of photos of clean-cut, happy, dancing people and some very weird and quite offensive beliefs.

The page about beating your children is a particularly odd one.

Basically the argument is that you beat them because you love them.

Without such discipline, children will grow up to be monsters – drug takers, homosexuals, go to jail etc, and fathers (yes, it's all about

fathers) will be “emasculated”.

“He becomes a wimp of a man who can only coax or coddle his child into some form of outward compliance.”

According to the convoluted and pedantic logic of the religiously extreme, the Twelve Tribes also reach the conclusion that a ban on hitting children leads to a Godless society.

They state that in countries where smacking is banned: “.. man is left without the ability to command his children. He cannot rule as he was created to.

“Thus, the image of God is being obliterated from those countries that ban spanking. Their unspoken goal is clearly to eliminate it from the face of the planet.” In other words: a ban on smacking isn't about protecting children from harm - it's the first step on the journey to Hell in a handcart pushed by a load of wimpy men.

That's barely scratching the surface of how offensive these people's beliefs are. Like Hitler and the former slave states of the USA up until recently, they're also not that fond of interracial relationships/mixing of the races, and are keen on maintaining racial purity.

As one (black) member states on their website: “We like blacks. We like to see blacks be free to be who they are. We do not want them to become white people, or vice-versa. So, we in the Twelve Tribes would like for the beautiful cultures of all the races to remain intact.”

They expect women to submit to men, dress modestly and do what they're told, and are loony enough to think that homosexuality is caused by women not doing that, ie children brought up in homes where the woman wears the trousers risk becoming gay.

The increasingly visible number of gay people in recent times, according to the Twelve Tribes, is a direct result of women and men becoming more equal, rather than the more logical argument that it is a result of the fact that homosexuality was de-criminalised in the 1960s and became more acceptable in society from then on, leading to greater numbers of gay people feeling comfortable enough to no longer lead secret lives.

In the Twelve Tribes women should know their place. As one wrote on the website: “Our “characteristic social behavior” is that we help the men, because woman was originally created to be the helper of man.”

However, there is: “practically nothing that we “can’t do.” We choose not to do certain things, however, whether it is hard physical exertion that is not good for our childbearing years, or competing with men in the areas that are best left to them.”

Like many such religious organisations, those who join the Twelve Tribes give up all their worldly goods – and that could mean money, possessions, radios, TVs, the lot. If they change their minds, they don’t get it back.

They follow the Bible literally. They believe they’re going to Heaven and are expecting the end of the world anytime soon.

They grow their own food, live wholesome lives, hit their children, have an arrogant assumption they’re better than everyone else, and some really intolerant beliefs.

If you fancy living a life rich with medieval views, in a cult-like environment, among people whose beliefs bear such striking resemblances to extreme interpretations of Islam you’d think they’d be quite comfy in Saudi Arabia, then the Twelve Tribes is the religion for you.

Read more: <http://www.middevongazette.co.uk/Twyford-Tribes/story-19888757-detail/story.html#ixzz34K4iVNnl>

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