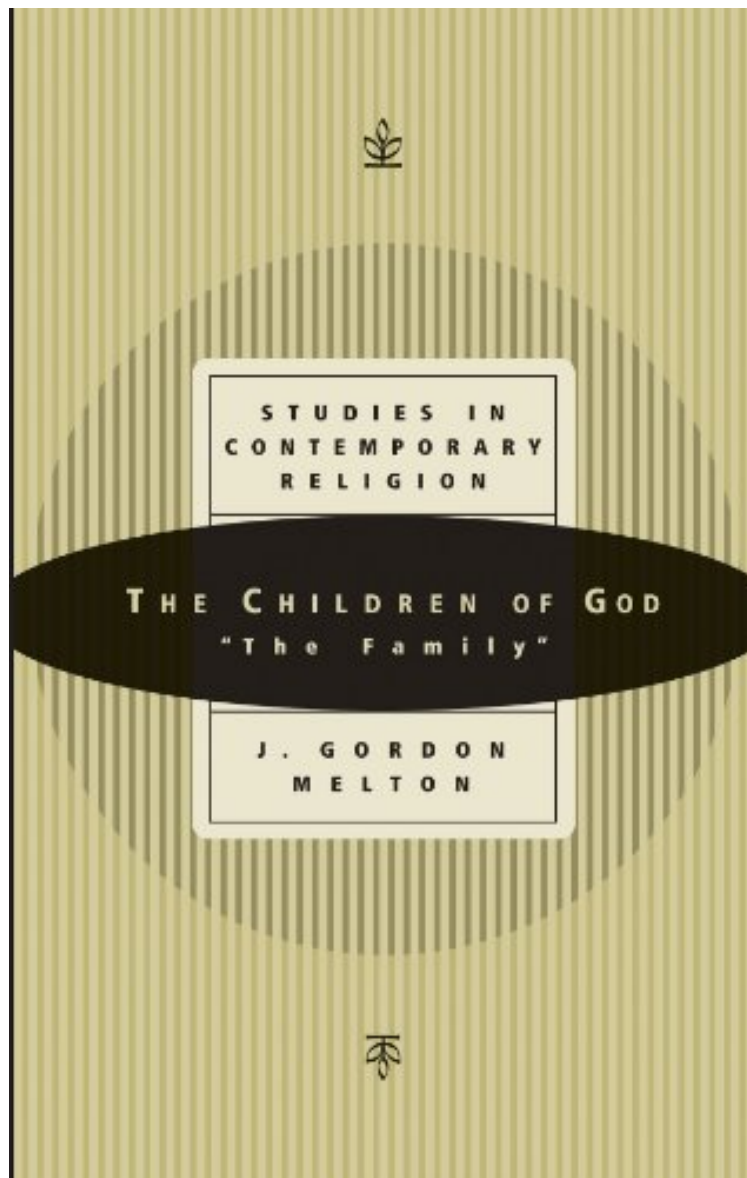


The Children of God: "The Family": Studies in Contemporary Religions

J. Gordon Melton

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J. Gordon Melton : The Children of God: "The Family": Studies in Contemporary Religions before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Children of God: "The Family": Studies in Contemporary Religions:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Hidden Agenda By Barry Having met and dated Miriam Williams and having met Ricky Rodriguez, I probably know more than this 'author'. The author appears to be one of the current members of 'The Family' who continues to deny the widely documented child and adult sexual abuse promoted by 'MO'. 9 of 18 people found the following review helpful. An objective assessment of the history By Midwest Book Review The Children of God "The Family" is the true story of the most successful communal movement of the hippie era. Founded in the 1960s, The Children of God came to blend Christian belief with sexual freedom and a rejection of materialism. Modern era brought changes, including alterations in their practice in response to child sexual abuse charges (all dismissed) and efforts to conform more accurately to cultural expectations. Yet to this day they live communally, proselytize full-time (none hold traditional jobs), engage in sexual "sharing", and a number of talented musicians have sprung from their ranks. The Children of God "The Family" is an objective assessment of the history, and direction of the movement, as well as the laws that guide them and the principles that drive their cohesion. Evaluations and interpretations of "The Family" are left up to this reader in this excellent fact-filled resource.

The Children of God emerged out of the hippie movement of the 1960s, and through the 1980s they came to blend Christianity with sexual freedom, communal living, and a rejection of materialism and the system. The Children, or the Family as they are now called, modified their behavior in the 1990s in the wake of several child sexual abuse charges (all dismissed) and the need for direction among the rising generation of Family members. They continue to live communally, proselytize full-time (none hold traditional jobs) and engage in sexual sharing. As a byproduct of their evangelism, they have produced a number of accomplished musicians. They receive guidance for their daily lives through periodic revelations passed to them by the Family's current leader, Maria (the founder's widow), and her associates. Despite their variance from traditional Christian beliefs and practices, their recent attempts to conform to some degree with cultural norms in whatever country they work has tempered criticism, and they continue as the most successful communal movement of an almost forgotten hippie world.

About the Author J. Gordon Melton is the director in Santa Barbara, California, of the Institute for the Study of American Religion. He is the author of the influential Encyclopedia of American Religions