

### **Fathers not youth**

This comes from a book entitled *Assumptions that Affect Our Lives: A clash and contrast between Greek Philosophy and Hebrew Wisdom and their role in shaping Western Christianity* by Christian Overman. (With a title like that, it have better be a good book!!) Here's the quote from pages 79-80:

"...Youth movements were a European phenomenon, especially in Germany where 25,000 members of the Wandervogel clubs hiked, strummed guitars, protested about pollution and the growth of cities, and damned the old. Opinion-formers like Max Weber and Arthur Moeller van den Bruck demanded that youth be brought to the helm. The nation, wrote Bruck, 'needs a change of blood, and insurrection of the sons against the fathers, a substitution of the old by the young.' All over Europe, sociologists were assiduously studying the youth to find out what they thought they wanted. And, of course, what the youth wanted was war.

As for Ancient Israel, the hope of the future did not rest in the hands of the youth, but rather rested firmly upon the shoulders of fathers as heads of families and elders as heads of communities. Elders did not look to youth for wisdom, neither were the youth to look to their peers for understanding. Hebrew children were to honor their parents and elders for a very good reason--the hope of their future rested in adult's hands. For better or for worse, as went the fathers, so went the nation. If the younger generation was to enter into wisdom and blessing, it was the fathers who would lead them there. Herein lay the real hope of the future: that the hearts of the fathers would turn to their children, and the hearts of the children would then respond to their fathers (see Malachi 4:5).

Israel was definitely an elder-oriented society. The Hebrews did not elevate youth, nor did they exalt the child, On the contrary, they venerated age. It was an attitude that stood in striking terms to ancient Athens, which treated age unkindly, and may account for the fact that Athenians feared and mourned old age."