

BE NOT EASILY OFFENDED

Symonds Ryder left the church because Joseph Smith misspelled his name on his Elder's certificate. It was spelled Rider instead of Ryder. He said if Joseph Smith were truly a prophet he would not have misspelled his name. He became a bitter anti-Mormon and was the one who brought the tar bucket with the mob the night Joseph Smith was tared and feathered.

We have seen many changes in the church in recent months. Some of those changes have caused a few members to leave the church. One of those members was my nephew. He left the church because of the new church policy on children of gay couples not being allowed to be baptized until they are 18. It did not seem to matter to him that the church has had that same policy for the children of polygamists for years. He home taught a gay man so I guess the new change in policy was more significant to him than might otherwise be.

When I think about him leaving the church I keep thinking back about something I often saw when I was a professional genealogist. Occasionally I saw families in the early days who had 8 or 10 children. In some cases one of those children would leave the church. It was astonishing to me as I traced the descendants of that one child who lived a hundred or so years ago down 5 or 6 generations, to see that literally hundreds of that child's descendants are not members of the church now.

When my nephew decided to leave the church over a policy change, I realized that he is not just leaving the church himself. He is taking his wife, his children, grandchildren and generations of children to come with him.

The interesting thing is that a few weeks ago the church changed the policy back again. But it is too late. He was already offended and says he is not coming back. That is where that other spiritual message came from that I called, "WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE". Those were questions I asked him when he decided to leave the church.

Brother Vail

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