



# The Radical Disciple

## Some Neglected Aspects of Our Calling

Introduction: What is a radical disciple?

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# Introduction: What is a Radical Disciple?

1. Why this course? What do we want to accomplish?
2. Level Set - Who is a disciple?
3. What does it mean to be “radical”?
4. Overview of 8 radical characteristics
5. How can we make the most of our time together?

## Why this course?

- v We confess that Jesus is Lord, and desire to have his lordship become fully alive in us.
- v We are mindful of Jesus' admonishment
  - *"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?"*  
Luke 6:46

and are open to corrections where we have neglected his teaching and commands.

- v We trust in God's power to transform our lives and delight in helping one another grow.

## Who is a disciple?

- ▾ A disciple is one who responds in faith and obedience to the gracious call to follow Jesus Christ. Being a disciple is a life long process of dying to self while allowing Jesus Christ to come alive in us. (Greg Ogden, *Discipleship Essentials*)

## The Cost of Discipleship

*23 And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. Luke 9:23-24*

*25 Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, 26 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. 27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ... 33 So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:25-33*

# What does it mean to be “radical”?

- v Synonyms:

1. revolutionary, extreme, militant
2. fundamental, quintessential, intrinsic ✓

- v Origin:

Latin *radicalis*, *radix* - ‘root’: ‘forming the root’, ‘inherent’

- v “Radial” = “Deeply rooted in and committed to Jesus Christ”

*Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. Colossian 2:6-7*

- v Being radical is Jesus’ antidote against what he warns us about:

*Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. Luke 6:46-48a*

- v The 8 Beatitudes / Sermon on the Mount are radical.
- v Disciples are radical because Jesus is radical!

# Overview of 8 Radical Characteristics

	Christ's Examples for and Claims on Our Lives
Nonconformity	The Incarnation of Christ
Christlikeness	God's ultimate purpose for his people
Maturity	Being truly "In Christ" = Having a mature relationship with him
Creation Care	Christ is the creator, sustainer, and restorer of all creation.
Simplicity	The Humility of Christ
Balance	The Life of Christ
Dependence	The Humanity of Christ
Death	The Cross of Christ

Discipleship is not about *me* - not my preferences, nor my efforts.

*Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.* Hebrews 12:2

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.*  
Hebrews 10:24

# How can we make the most of our time together?

- v Read each chapter before the class.
- v Use the preparation questions provided by the facilitators.
- v Have a partner for sharing and prayer.
- v Keep a simple journal on your reflections.
- v Share your thoughts with the class.
- v Set a S.M.A.R.T. personal goal
  - v Identify one area for tangible growth over a set period of time.
  - v S.M.A.R.T. goal for the class too?