



Dgroup Discussion Guide for September 3, 2017 Radical Christians

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20

In Luke 10:2, Jesus says ***The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.*** This is still true today as it was 2000 years ago. The problem does not lie in the harvest, but rather the laborers are too few. Why is this so? First, there are many who are unwilling to leave their comfort zones. Second, there are some who are willing but are unqualified.

Paul tells us in Hebrews 12:1-2 ***Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance & the sin which so easily entangles us, & let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith.*** There are many qualified laborers but the problem is they are entangled in sin. What sin? Disobedience. That is why Paul encourages us in Ephesians 12:1-2 ***Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner of the calling with which you have been called.*** We are Christians, we are God's laborers, we must live out our life in obedience to God's commands so that we will be worthy to bear the name "Christians".

But how do we become qualified laborers? Heb 5:12-15 says ***For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.*** It is only when we practice our faith, when we live out our salvation in obedience to God that we grow in our Christian life. It is through practicing obedience, it is through practicing our faith that we become qualified laborers for God. But how exactly do we practice obedience? MAKE DISCIPLES.

The world today needs Radical Christians. But radical Christians are made, they are not born. Radical Christians are built up, not overnight but rather through constant study and practice of the Word. While Christianity may be the answer to our present social disorders and problems, it is not proving to be so because it is not practiced truly, fully and radically by those who call themselves Christians. In essence, there is a great lack of good Christian witness and influence because although there are many professed Christians, many of us are not transformed to positively influence others. Most of the time there is much head knowledge, but we are sorely lacking in obedience and transformation. We continue to be spiritual infants and delude ourselves about our faith and salvation. Thinking that we are saved but actually are NOT. Because a truly saved Christians are not merely saved, they are also transformed. Ephesians 12:1-2 Paul says we have to ***walk in the manner worthy of our calling.*** We have to walk the talk. Radically. It is when we radically obey God's commands and radically live out our faith that we can influence families and others.

What exactly is Radical? To be radical, means to be deeply rooted to have extreme change. As radical Christians, we are called to love radically (meaning to love all including our enemies and persecutors), to give radically, forgive radically, serve radically, obey radically and sacrifice radically. Unfortunately, most Christians are not radical. We give excuses that we are "only human" and that we are "still a work in progress". And claim that God understands our inability to obey since He knows we are trying. We make excuses to be complacent and lukewarm in our walk. But God requires us to be radical.

Why? Because Radical Christians stand out. They live their lives above the norm for Christians. Radical Christians are obedient to ALL of God's commands most of the time, if not all of the time. Radical Christians live like Jesus. They are Christ-like in ALL.

The key to become a radical Christian is found in 1 Cor 11:1 where Paul says ***be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.*** This is God's ultimate purpose for us. Romans 8:29 says ***For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.*** We were saved to BE Christlike.

So, how do we do this?

1. KNOW what Christ-likeness looks like. Phil 2:3-8 ***Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interest, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who although he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God, a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself taking the form of a bond servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross.*** This is the measure we measure our life against. We ask ourselves – do we practice selflessness and humility? Do we practice Christlikeness? Are we imitators of Jesus?
2. CULTIVATE Christlikeness by knowing the roots of Christlikeness and seek after it.

What are the roots of SELFLESS HUMILITY?

- a. Know that humility has nothing to do with SELF. Anything that has “self” is SELFish. Self righteousness, self will, self seeking, self good, selfish, selfie, self destiny, self assurance . . . Jesus did not think of Himself. Rather He emptied Himself
- b. Know who you are VERSUS God & Jesus. We are nothing in light of God’s holiness. We are the created, He is our Creator. We are sinners and the offenders. Jesus is the Savior. Jesus is not only Savior, He MUST be Lord of your life to transform you.

It is God’s appointed way to transformation for us to Make Disciples. Without this, there would be no Christlike witnesses around. Without Christlikeness, we have little or even no influence over the people around us.

But the question is WHERE do we start? We start at home. We make disciples at home. We practice Christlikeness at home. We become witnesses for Christ at home. And then we are a family who lives out our salvation radically, then we will begin to influence others.

APPLICATION:

Patiently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage’s lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

1. Evaluate your Christian walk. Are you complacent? Or Radical?
2. How are you obeying God’s command to be imitators of Jesus?
3. Would you like to be a radical Christian? What are the changes you are willing to commit to?

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.

God’s Spiritual Laws

1. You need only to commit ONE sin to go to hell.
Romans 6:23 and Revelations 21:8
2. This SIN problem must be solved. All of your sins must be forgiven to avoid hell. How?
Hebrews 9:22, John 14:4 and John 3:16
3. Believe JESUS is the ONLY one who can save you. Ask Him into your life as Savior and Lord
John 1:12
4. With JESUS IN you, you have eternal life.
1 John 5:11-12