

# RADICAL EVANGELISM

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REJECTING  
SELF-PRESERVATION



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*And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."*

**Matthew 22:37-40**

Our entire being (mind, emotions, spirit, body, and finances) would be much healthier if we loved God with all of our being. A heart passionately in love with God is the starting point of a healthy life. When God is no longer our first love, our lives are in danger, including our finances.

Beyond just our financial habits, everything that we do should be punctuated by the voice of God asking:

- Do you love me?
- Do you trust me?
- Do you live for me?
- Do you want more of me?

A deep, captivating relationship with God comes when we become incredibly intentional about our relationship with Him. Once we settle the issue of a relentless pursuit of God, order will be brought to our spiritual lives, thus facilitating financial order.

We should begin to crave God like never before; prioritizing faith and devotion over the materialism and self-preservation that culture is all about. It isn't about me, and it never has been.



*Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life[g] will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. 28 Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."*

**Matthew 16:24-28**

Taking up your cross will bring you to a place where your contentment and fulfillment will not be derived from wealth and the accumulation of material substance. Rather you will find wholeness in Him.

Spiritually, we are being distracted. Every distraction a blatant attempt to move our eyes from the importance of the foundation building that we have been talking about for weeks now. You hear about what that church is doing across town? Did you see what happened to Bro. and Sis. So-and-So? I can't believe they did, said, tried something like that.

Every precious moment we spend focused on the speck in the eyes of our brothers and sisters that are trying to do their best, we lose out on the valuable time that should be spent reaching and helping the people whose lives are falling apart in front of us.

The more time we dedicate to talking about the shortcomings of others, the more likely we are to fall into the same kinds of traps. I don't know about you, but I'd rather spend my time looking for ways that I can improve the church and people's relationships with God.



Richard J. Foster author of *Celebration of Discipline* considers discipline to be the door to liberty:

- “Superficiality is the curse of our age. The doctrine of instant satisfaction is a primary spiritual problem. The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people.”
- Spiritual disciplines encourage us to explore who we really are and challenge us to give hope to a broken world.
- Our disciplines are not just for people we believe to be super spiritual. Each of us is called to grow spiritually.

We need to take time to really look at ourselves and see how and with whom we are interacting with during the 99% of our time that we aren't at church.

- How intentional have I been in building a relationship with the people I share a cubicle with?
- What is preventing me from starting up a conversation with my coworker, supervisor, and boss?
- Is my own pride so important that I am unwilling to endure the awkwardness of talking about God with people that need to be saved?

Door hangers and passive, timid evangelism are not the tools of the modern church. Radical, unashamed love and personal relationships are the things that are going to fuel revival and the transformation of lives all around us.

We talk about souls and salvation, but we need to start seeing souls as living, breathing people that need to have a real and powerful experience with God. Just like we all once needed our lives to be radically changed, they need to experience the breadth and depth of love that God can offer them.

