

RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (LESSON 44)

Jesus' final night was spent with His disciples. His final training session began in the upper room where Jesus enjoyed the Last Supper with His disciples. He set forth three priorities necessary for everything He had taught them.

PRIORITY 1: THE POWER OF LOVE. Two things are said about Jesus' love: He loved His own. He loved them to the end. Pink comments, "To the end means either 'to the last' or 'utter and completely.' Both were true of Jesus, and both should be true of us. Nothing identifies one as a disciple of Jesus more than love. Jesus loved His disciples enough to wash their feet. That last act of service illustrated His complete love for His disciples. He then instructed them to love each other the same way. The badge of discipleship is love. "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35). If people do not know we are followers Jesus by our love, we are not radical disciples. Preaching, teaching, and talking do not prove we are Jesus' disciples. You can do those things without love. But you can't be a radical disciple without love. Love for each other identifies us as disciples of Jesus more than anything else. Earl Radmacher stated this clearly and succinctly, "Unbelievers recognize Jesus' disciples not by their doctrinal purity, nor by dramatic miracles, nor even by their love for the lost. They recognize His disciples by their deeds of love for one another." Unfortunately, we don't see much radical discipleship today. Maybe that explains why the church has so little influence in the world.