

RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (LESSON 50)

DISCIPLESHIP AND THE CHURCH (CONTINUED). After Pentecost how did the church begin to function in the life of the Spirit? Ironside talks about the initial step each new believer took to become a disciple. "So thousands of people received the Word and immediately acted in accordance with their faith. They were baptized, and their baptism cut them off from the Christ-rejecting nation of Israel and at the same time brought them into a new fellowship altogether. It brought them into the Christian community." Baptism pictures Christ's burial and resurrection (Romans 6:4). They buried the old life and were raised to walk in newness of life. Six fundamental practices were necessary to be a disciple of Jesus once a person believed in Jesus for salvation (Acts 2:41-42). If you want to be a radical disciple. Pay attention, and examine yourself. These were practiced from the inception of the church and they are as necessary to becoming a disciple today as they were then. [1] They received God's Word as their sole authority for faith. [2] They were baptized, identifying themselves with Jesus their risen Lord. [3] They continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching (what the apostles had learned directly from Jesus). [4] They remained in fellowship with the Christian community. [5] They reinforced their relationship with Jesus and each other by observing communion. [6] They prayed together. The last four of these activities were based on what Jesus taught them the night before He was crucified. With the absence of Jesus, discipleship was done in and through the body life of the church. The person who thinks he or she can be a good Christian without the church is a questionable Christian, let alone a disciple.