

Access Free Becoming A Christian In Christendom Radical Discipleship And The Way Of The Cross In Americas Christian Culture Pdf Free Copy

Becoming a Christian in Christendom **Mere Discipleship** *The Radical Disciple* **Radical Discipleship** *Kierkegaard and Radical Discipleship* **The Radical Disciple** **A Presence that Disturbs** *Beyond Cheap Grace A Presence that Disturbs* Living Radical Discipleship **Water-Walking** *More Than Conquerors* *Biblical Foundations for Radical Discipleship* **Mere Discipleship** *More Than Conquerors (New Edition)* Following Jesus The New Creation **Aggressive Christianity** **Watershed Discipleship** **Radical New Monasticism** **The Signature of Jesus** Outgrowing Cultic Christianity **Christian Basics** Radical Disciple **Who Will Roll Away the Stone?** Ordinary Missional Discipleship After Christendom **Adventures in Spirituality** **Practical Discipleship** *Truth Revealed* Radical **Emerging Prophet** **The Jesus Paradigm** **Post-Christendom** **Christlikeness** The Naked Anabaptist **Evangelicals and the End of Christendom** **Christian Basics** **Radical Lutherans/Lutheran Radicals**

Contrary to popular culture, the goal of life is not happiness, but meaning. Those who seek happiness by trying to avoid or finesse conflict, suffering, doubt, and change will find life increasingly superficial. Feeling good is a flawed measure of life, but living meaningfully is transformative, for then one is living a developmental rather than a regressive agenda. The ego does whatever it can to make itself comfortable, whereas spirituality is about wholeness. *Adventures in Spirituality* represents the culmination of Dr. Vande Kappelle's forty-year teaching career, incorporating in one volume his views on topics as varied as theology, Christology, biblical interpretation, spirituality, ethics, world religions, religion and science, faith and reason, and church history. Reared in Costa Rica, the son of missionary parents, Dr. Vande Kappelle describes his journey from belief to faith as a transition from precritical to postcritical understanding, from evangelical Christianity to what he calls "alternative orthodoxy." Narrating the shift from first- to second-half-of-life experience, he introduces readers to core principles that shaped his values, thinking, and way of life. Useful for individual or group study, *Adventures in Spirituality* encourages readers to take risks with their lives and faith, affirming that this is how one grows spiritually. We live in a time of religious warfare, not just between different religions, but also between those with differing versions of the same faith. This religious distrust and political conflict may be the worst in American history since the Civil War. Speaking as a "progressive conservative," biblical scholar Robert Vande Kappelle uses a four-stage model of faith development to rethink core Christian doctrines. Starting with current events and a discussion on the role of religion, this book examines how inadequate faith development makes people of faith susceptible to misinformation, conspiracy thinking, and even to cultic mindsets. People of faith do not choose to believe a lie; they all want to believe what is true. Hence, it is surprising that, in the realm of religion, so many people are willing to rely upon untested and even highly disputed beliefs, beliefs most received as children. Unfortunately, many of these teachings are based upon ancient hopes and fears rather than upon factual historical information. Taken literally, dualistic teachings concerning heaven and hell, sin and salvation, good and evil, and apocalyptic beliefs such as the "end times" and the imminent return of Christ to earth are questionable, not only because they are beyond historical and scientific verification, but also because they can be misused by authoritarian leaders to control and mislead devout individuals. Thankfully, there is a way to outgrow cultic Christianity. The path to spiritual maturity comes by restoring the role of religion, a form of spirituality discovered not by addition, but by a process of subtraction. *Outgrowing Cultic Christianity* is useful for individual or group study. Each chapter concludes with questions suitable for discussion or reflection. You're only one step away from the adventure of your life. In this abridgement of his bestselling book, *If You Want to Walk on Water You Have to Get Out of the Boat*, John Ortberg invites you to do with God's help what you could never do on your own—step out of your comfort zone and step out on the risky waters of faith. If you do, you'll find that Jesus is waiting to meet you in ways that will change you forever, deepening your character and your trust in God. The experience is terrifying. It's thrilling beyond belief. It's everything you'd expect of someone worthy to be called Lord. The choice is yours to know him as only a water-walker can, aligning yourself with God's purpose for your life in the process. Lee Camp sets forth his vision of what it means to truly follow Christ. This substantially revised and expanded edition updates examples and adds chapter introductions, summaries, and study questions. This powerful, moving, and "disturbing" book looks at the contemporary issues that block the attainment of a revitalized church—a church united rather than fragmented, a church tuned to justice for all rather than to provincial myopia. *A Presence that Disturbs* will engage the general reader and the specialist alike with a fresh perspective on what it means to follow Christ. Three themes garnered from Holocaust survivor Viktor Frankl underpin the message of this book. To live you must choose: you must not let life "just happen." To love you must encounter: you must know that human encounter is the only authentic way to know and love. To grow you must suffer: you must know that suffering can be a vehicle of growth, a chance for redemption, a way to turn ourselves to the outside. Gittins discusses these themes in the context of the search for meaning. The new lease on life endowed by the Holy Spirit, the function of imaginative ministry, the *communitas* of true discipleship, and the radical actions of Jesus' ministry are just a few of the ideas explored in the quest for a new understanding of discipleship. "Authentic Christianity," says Gittins, "is outreaching and encountering; it communicates and ministers. Christianity, like its sibling, Judaism, does not produce complacency, but complicity or participation with others. These pages are an invitation to renewed discipleship and an appeal to radical Christianity in the footsteps and in the Spirit of Jesus, who prayed that his followers be one in him." **WHAT IS JESUS WORTH TO YOU?** It's easy for American Christians to forget how Jesus said his followers would actually live, what their new lifestyle would actually look like. They would, he said, leave behind security, money, convenience, even family for him. They would abandon everything for the gospel. They would take up their crosses daily... **BUT WHO DO YOU KNOW WHO LIVES LIKE THAT? DO YOU?** In *Radical*, David Platt challenges you to consider with an open heart how we have manipulated the gospel to fit our cultural preferences. He shows what Jesus actually said about being his disciple--then invites you to believe and obey what you have heard. And he tells the dramatic story of what is happening as a successful" suburban church decides to get serious about the gospel according to Jesus. Finally, he urges you to join in *The Radical Experiment* -- a one-year journey in authentic discipleship that will transform how you live in a world that desperately needs the Good News Jesus came to bring. (From the 2010 edition)" If the New Testament represents the crown jewels of Christianity, the Gospel of John is its "pearl of great price," the most beloved, most read, most quoted, most distinctive, most memorable, most debated book in its canon. *Truth Revealed* is ideal for individual and group study. It divides the Gospel of John into twelve units, providing helpful introductory features, summaries, learning objectives, and questions for each unit, and concludes by offering perspective on a specific topic that arises as one follows the narrative, always with an eye on the big picture, namely, guidance for daily living. Few sayings attributed to Jesus are better known or more widely quoted than the words "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). At his trial before Pilate, Jesus declared that his purpose in life was to witness to the truth. Pilate responds with the Gospel's most memorable question: "What is truth?" The answer is explored in *Truth Revealed*, a commentary that provides literary, theological, historical, and textual guidelines for understanding the message of this ancient work in a way that is accessible and applicable to twenty-first century readers. The church is in disarray. Theologians and commentators speak of the demise of evangelicalism. Are they alarmists? Is Christianity as we know it in the process of dying? Writer, scholar, teacher, and missionary Dr. David Alan Black thinks that the answer does not lie in the politics of the left or the right. In fact, he doesn't think that Jesus tells us what our politics should be. He doesn't see answers in Christian nationalism. But even further, he sees serious flaws in the very

structure of our churches and denominations that prevent us from truly being obedient to the gospel. The solution lies, not in renewal, revival, or even in reformation, but rather in restoration—a restoration of the church organized as Jesus intended it and according to the example provided by the earliest church sources in the New Testament. To make the church and its members true servants of Jesus Christ again, we need to change our entire paradigm—to The Jesus Paradigm. Western societies are experiencing a series of disorientating culture shifts. Uncertain where we are heading, observers use “post” words to signal that familiar landmarks are disappearing, but we cannot yet discern the shape of what is emerging. One of the most significant shifts, “post-Christendom,” raises many questions about the mission and role of the church in this strange new world. What does it mean to be one of many minorities in a culture that the church no longer dominates? How do followers of Jesus engage in mission from the margins? What do we bring with us as precious resources from the fading Christendom era, and what do we lay down as baggage that will weigh us down on our journey into post-Christendom? Post-Christendom identifies the challenges and opportunities of this unsettling but exciting time. Stuart Murray presents an overview of the formation and development of the Christendom system, examines the legacies this has left, and highlights the questions that the Christian community needs to consider in this period of cultural transition. Until recently most scholars have viewed Kierkegaard as a philosopher, a theologian, a psychologist, or a social thinker. Professor Eller sees Kierkegaard first and foremost as a religious thinker, and states that Kierkegaard himself felt his works could be best understood if they were read with this in mind. In order to show that Kierkegaard's religious thought is essentially that of classic Protestant sectarianism, Professor Eller has selected a typical sect, the Brethren, against which to measure Kierkegaard. He finds that, although the Brethren writers were not as sophisticated or learned as Kierkegaard, there were parallels in their writings on such topics as the importance of the individual and his relation to God, the role of reason in religion, and the problem of freedom of the will. Originally published in 1967. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905. Christianity is essentially a historical religion. It cannot be understood merely through a set of dogmas, a moral code, or a view of the universe. Through the stories of Israel, Jesus, and the developing church, Christianity acknowledges the revelation of God in action. Augustine, the great medieval theologian, envisioned human society as composed of two “cities,” distinguished by two loves: the love of God and the love of Self. He viewed these cities as universal in scope and operative throughout human history. This perspective raises questions about the church's nature, its role in society, and whether the church has lived up to its nature and destiny as God's new creation. The New Creation defines the church as “the people of God,” related but not equivalent to Israel or the institutional church. This text provides a clear and concise survey of the church as God's instrument for the providential care of the earth and its human family. The story of the church begins with Abraham in the second millennium BCE, long before Jesus or the birth of Christianity, and it proceeds through three epochs: 1. Formation (c. 1850–4 BCE), 2. Transformation (4 BCE–1500 CE), and 3. Reformation (1500 CE–present). Ideal for individual or group study, The New Creation divides church history into nine units, each discussed as a phase in the church's organic growth and development. In addition to the narrative, each chapter includes three features for that epoch of church history: 1) a significant event, 2) a turning point or decisive moment, and 3) study questions. Kierkegaard was a prophet who critiqued “Christendom,” the perversion of authentic, New Testament Christianity into the institutionalized, materialistic, triumphalist, and flabby religion of modernism. Emergent Christianity is attempting to carve out a more authentic way of being Christian and doing church within—and beyond—the ineffectual, institutionalized church of modernity. In many ways, Kierkegaard's critiques, concerns, and goals overlap with emergent Christianity and the emerging church. For the first time, this book brings Kierkegaard into a dialogue with various postmodern forms of Christianity, on topics like revelation and the Bible, the atonement and moralism, and the church as an “apologetic of witness.” In conversation with postmodern philosophers, contemporary theologians, and emergent leaders, Kierkegaard is offered as a prophetic voice for those who are carving out an alternative expression of the New Testament today and attempting to follow Christ through works of love. “Following Kierkegaard, Roberts encourages and displays a healthy rhythm of critical distance and active engagement—funding both the critique of the idols of modernism, moralism, and Christendom, and the creative retrieval of a proper understanding of the revelation of God in Scripture and our imaginative, hermeneutical engagement with it.” --Christopher Ben Simpson, author of *The Truth is the Way: Kierkegaard's Theologia Viatorum* “To 'emergent' Christians experimenting with faith apart from the benefits of established Christianity, Roberts introduces Kierkegaard as an invaluable resource. To those of us who have wrestled with Kierkegaard, Roberts introduces a growing group of creative, faithful Christians who wrestle with radical discipleship. Whether they are scholars, students, or seekers, this book is for all who wonder and worry about the shape of Christian faith and church today.” --Jason A. Mahn, author of *Fortunate Fallibility: Kierkegaard and the Power of Sin* “As emergent Christianity has gained more traction in the church, serious scholars have been paying attention and adding to the conversation. Rarely has a book been published in this vein about which I am as excited as I am about *Emerging Prophet*. To put the emerging church movement into conversation with Kierkegaard is, I think, a stroke of genius—it's a match made in heaven.” --Tony Jones, author of *The Church Is Flat: The Relational Ecclesiology of the Emerging Church Movement* “In this compelling and well-written volume, Roberts brings the postmodern commitments of the emerging church into fruitful conversation with Kierkegaard. In so doing he makes a powerful case that emergence Christianity is generally consistent with Kierkegaard's vision of a Christian alternative to Christendom. This is one of the best books yet on the potential significance of the emerging church movement for the future of Christianity in the West.” --John R. Franke, author of *Manifold Witness: The Plurality of Truth* “At a time when the church is in the midst of transition, Roberts calls out the passionate, ironic, scathing, beautiful voice of Kierkegaard to help us imagine faithful ecclesiological alternatives. It's a brilliant move—hopeful, generative, insightful, and instructive.” --Debbie Blue, author of *From Stone to Living Word: Letting the Bible Live Again* Kyle A. Roberts (PhD) is Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and Lead Faculty for Christian Thought at Bethel Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. Radical. Crazy. Transformative and restless. Every word we read these days seems to suggest there's a “next-best-thing,” if only we would change our comfortable, compromising lives. In fact, the greatest fear most Christians have is boredom—the sense that they are missing out on the radical life Jesus promised. One thing is certain. No one wants to be “ordinary.” Yet pastor and author Michael Horton believes that our attempts to measure our spiritual growth by our experiences, constantly seeking after the next big breakthrough, have left many Christians disillusioned and disappointed. There's nothing wrong with an energetic faith; the danger is that we can burn ourselves out on restless anxieties and unrealistic expectations. What's needed is not another program or a fresh approach to spiritual growth; it's a renewed appreciation for the commonplace. Far from a call to low expectations and passivity, Horton invites readers to recover their sense of joy in the ordinary. He provides a guide to a sustainable discipleship that happens over the long haul—not a quick fix that leaves readers empty with unfulfilled promises. Convicting and ultimately empowering, Ordinary is not a call to do less; it's an invitation to experience the elusive joy of the ordinary Christian life. Foreword by Howard John Loewen As our lives become complex with the demands of our affluent and accelerating society, do we hear the gospel's timeless and insistent call to live the “obedience of faith”? In these three “sermonic essays” Eldin Villafañe takes on the task of awakening true obedience of faith through the themes of discipleship, incarnation, and justice. Beginning with discipleship, Villafañe draws on the “Christ hymn” of Philippians 2 to challenge Christians to choose the costly Christ-life. He then offers six contrarian perspectives on the incarnation from the early church as correctives to our current, culturally conditioned theological emphases. Finally, taking the book of Amos as a touchstone, Villafañe issues a call for just leadership among the nations. Adding interest and depth to this work are an insightful foreword by Dean Loewen and thoughtful responses by Richard Peace, Juan Francisco Martinez, and Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen. Villafañe's *Beyond Cheap Grace* incisively extends Christ's call to discipleship, incarnation, and justice to the church, the academy, and Christian leaders of all traditions. Human beings are happiest when they live virtuously. For Jesus and his first followers, living virtuously meant loving God and others as extensions of oneself. However, what began as an inclusive ethical way of life based on unconditional love gradually degenerated into an exclusive social and political religious movement that came to be known as Christendom. Originally a continuation of Jewish messianism, the Christian movement aligned itself with Platonic and Aristotelian elements, comprising a marriage of specific elements of Greek philosophy

with Roman imperialism. What if, instead of aligning with the dualist, idealist, exclusivist, and supremacist Socratic movement perpetuated by Plato and his followers, ancient Christians had aligned with the nondualist, realist, inclusivist, and egalitarian Stoic movement spread by Zeno and his followers, an ethical tradition that, like the teachings of Jesus, was guided by providential and natural law ethics? The results of such a synthesis, laid out in this innovative study, are practical, inspiring, and transformative, for they are based on the greatest vision possible for humanity, a nondualist approach to life that counters authoritarian and exclusivist behavior fostered by supremacist political, ethical, and social religious ideologies. Unlike Christendom, based on ecclesiastical triumphalism, the way of Christlikeness, envisioned by Jesus for humanity, is grounded in humility, compassion, service, and love of others. A highly challenging call to respond with our whole hearts to Christ. To follow our Saviour is not about being nice. It's about taking risks. Simon writes: "There's a battle going on for our hearts. What I watch, what I listen to, what I spend my time and money on - all these erode my true sense of identify and worth as a child of God. Where is the vigilance, the discernment, the scrutiny? Our hearts are far too precious to treat with such lax indifference ... I want to play my part in turning the world upside down; I want to be fearless, bold, uncompromising and passionate in reaching out to the lost on behalf of the King of Kings; I never want to get over the grace of God.' The author of the critically-acclaimed *Binding the Strong Man* exposes the social and spiritual "stones" that impede us in our development and growth as Christians. "In every age", writes Myers, "disciples despair that the story has ended, only to discover that the stone 'has been rolled away, ' reopening the possibility - and imperative - of following the Way of Jesus". As a sequel to *Binding the Strong Man*, *Who Will Roll Away the Stone?* brings Myers' study of the gospel of Mark full circle. The first book provided a compelling reading of Mark's gospel as a manual of radical discipleship in the ancient Roman empire. *Who Will Roll Away the Stone?* picks up and extends the gospel's challenge specifically to those living in the contemporary imperial context. Each chapter opens with classic questions from within the gospel itself. Beginning with Peter's denial of Jesus, *Who Will Roll Away the Stone?* shows how and why first-world Christians - politically free, socially mobile, and resource-rich - seem typically unable or unwilling to struggle for social change. Myers uses three of the most troubling and problematic of recent events - the Los Angeles riots, the Gulf War, the Columbus quincentennial - to demonstrate how the subtle complexities of a culture of technological wizardry, information overload, and short-term memory can be recognized as blocking the first step on the journey of discipleship. Myers then turns to the second stage of discipleship which is conversion, literally a call to change direction both as individuals and as a society. He continues with a "deconstruction" of the *modus vivendi* of U.S. culture, using experiments in other ways of living, including social relocation and nonviolent politics. He then moves into the third stage of the call to discipleship, to reconstruct the church and the world through positive action: building solidarity with one another and with the poor, accepting and celebrating diversity and its gifts, and reclaiming the discourse of the reign of God from those who use it to defend the status quo. Shows how Father Pfleger has aggressively challenged issues in the inner-city parish of St. Sabina from the sale of drugs to billboard advertisements for cigarettes and liquor to gun control. The church has invested in the redevelopment of the community, providing housing, schools, and social services. Describes the church's three-hour services as a blend of Roman Catholicism and black Baptist tradition as Pfleger has sought to adopt Afrocentrism in decor, music and preaching style. Pfleger has also adopted three boys and invited controversial figures as speakers, including Louis Farrakhan, head of the Nation of Islam. Discipleship is a universal experience all human beings share. In our lifetime, each of us has had a mentor, tutor, teacher, or role model, someone we admired, respected, and followed. As the central character in the Bible, the world's best-selling book, Jesus is known and revered the world over. What would it be like to be mentored by such an individual? Of course, we can follow the accounts of the historical Jesus and his disciples in the gospels, but what would it mean to be disciplined by a contemporary, twenty-first-century Jesus? While people across the world claim to follow Jesus, what would it mean to live in the modern world guided by a modern Jesus on religious issues such as faith, God, and scripture, and on social issues such as poverty, healthcare, social justice, political reform, and caring for the environment? A good place to begin is with compassion, for Christianity and compassion are largely linked. To be apprenticed to Jesus is to follow one whose profound love for the hungry, sick, and dying inspired more compassion than any single person, movement, or force in history. Addressing discipleship as a priority in our lives, *Radical Discipleship* illustrates its subject with stories and accounts of ordinary Christians living out their discipleship in authentic and inspiring ways. Useful for individual or group study, this volume serves as a resource for people seeking tools necessary to fulfill Jesus' vision for a more vibrant and equitable world, one in which every human being can thrive. This powerful, moving, and "disturbing" book looks at the contemporary issues that block the attainment of a revitalized church--a church united rather than fragmented, a church tuned to justice for all rather than to provincial myopia. *A Presence that Disturbs* will engage the general reader and the specialist alike with a fresh perspective on what it means to follow Christ. Three themes garnered from Holocaust survivor Viktor Frankl underpin the message of this book. To live you must choose: you must not let life "just happen." To love you must encounter: you must know that human encounter is the only authentic way to know and love. To grow you must suffer: you must know that suffering can be a vehicle of growth, a chance for redemption, a way to turn ourselves to the outside. Gittins discusses these themes in the context of the search for meaning. The new lease on life endowed by the Holy Spirit, the function of imaginative ministry, the *communitas* of true discipleship, and the radical actions of Jesus' ministry are just a few of the ideas explored in the quest for a new understanding of discipleship. "Authentic Christianity," says Gittins, "is outreaching and encountering; it communicates and ministers. Christianity, like its sibling, Judaism, does not produce complacency, but complicity or participation with others. These pages are an invitation to renewed discipleship and an appeal to radical Christianity in the footsteps and in the Spirit of Jesus, who prayed that his followers be one in him." Click here to read the introduction to *The Naked Anabaptist*. In churches and kitchens and neighborhood centers across the world, communities of Jesus-followers are crafting a vision of radical service, simple living, and commitment to peace. Many are finding a home in a Christian tradition almost five centuries old: Anabaptism. Who are the Anabaptists? What do they believe? Where did they come from? What makes them different from other Christians? And can you become an Anabaptist without leaving your own church? Follow Stuart Murray as he peels back the layers to reveal the core convictions of Anabaptist Christianity, a way of following Jesus that challenges, disturbs, and inspires. Glimpse an alternative to nationalistic, materialistic, individualistic Christian faith. If you are seeking a community of authentic discipleship, heartfelt worship, sacrificial service, and radical peacemaking, consider this your invitation. This new edition features: Voices and stories from North America and the global church. Updated and expanded definition and discussion of Christendom. Updated resource section. Free downloadable study guide available here. Can a Lutheran be sociopolitically radical? Can a radical be theologically and faithfully Lutheran? This book answers yes. Written by teacher-scholars from five ELCA colleges, *Radical Lutherans/Lutheran Radicals* follows Martin Luther, Soren Kierkegaard, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dorothee Soelle, and others as they sink deep roots in the Lutheran Christian tradition while simultaneously resisting the status quo with their words, their deeds, and sometimes their very lives. Each chapter shows how the Lutheran theologian returns to the roots of Luther's life and writing and puts them toward radical social and political ends, including critiques of cultured Christianity; resistance to state or market; preferential options for the poor and suffering; deep commitments to peace, justice, and ecological sustainability; and direct nonviolent resistance. The book highlights theological themes popularized by Luther (justification by grace, two-kingdoms thinking, theology of the cross, and vocation) and then shows how these theological staples--when deeply and creatively retrieved--can inform political protest, intentional living, and other countercultural movements. The compelling claim throughout is that Luther's theology at its root has resources for radical political participation and social transformation, as exemplified by the writings and lives of these radical Lutherans/Lutheran radicals. So many of us avoid radical discipleship by being selective, choosing rather those areas in which commitment is appealing, and steering well clear of areas where it will be costly. But because Jesus is Lord, we have no liberty to pick and choose. The author looks at eight characteristics of Christian discipleship, which are commonly neglected yet deserve to be taken seriously. How might one live the Christian faith within a culture that idealizes and privileges Christianity while also relativizing it, rendering it redundant and innocuous? Arguing for a reconceptualization of the theology of the cross and radical communal practices, this book brings together two clusters of critics of Christian acculturation and accommodation: (1) Lutherans such as Kierkegaard and Bonhoeffer who lift up radical discipleship against the propensity toward "cheap grace," and (2) various "Anti-Constantinians," including neo-monastic communities, who resist the church's collusion with power politics, symbolized by the conversion of Constantine in the early fourth century. Drawing on these diverse resources,

author Jason Mahn explores some pervasive dangers of America's new Christendom: its accommodation to an exploitative economy that cheapens the meaning of grace; its endorsement of political liberalism, within which the church becomes another special interest group; its justification of war and other forms of "necessary" violence; and its self-defeating lip-service to religious inclusivity. Mahn provocatively imagines alternatives to conventional Christianity—ones whereby the church embodies an alternative politic, where it commits to cruciform non-violence, appreciates gifts by giving them away, and knows its boundaries well enough to learn from those on the other side. A highly challenging call to respond with our whole hearts to Christ. To follow our Saviour is not about being nice. It's about taking risks. Simon writes: 'There's a battle going on for our hearts. What I watch, what I listen to, what I spend my time and money on - all these erode my true sense of identify and worth as a child of God. Where is the vigilance, the discernment, the scrutiny? Our hearts are far too precious to treat with such lax indifference ... I want to play my part in turning the world upside down; I want to be fearless, bold, uncompromising and passionate in reaching out to the lost on behalf of the King of Kings; I never want to get over the grace of God.' The Signature of Jesus challenges the gospel of "cheap grace" and calls the church to radical discipleship. With passion and boldness, author Brennan Manning invites readers to risk living life as Jesus lived—committed to simplicity, purity of heart, and obedience to the gospel. As a radical alternative this book is offered to Christians who want to live by faith and not by mere "religion," for those who recognize that many of the burning theological issues in the church today are neither burning nor theological; who see Christianity neither as a moral code or a belief system but as a love affair; who have not forgotten that they are followers of a crucified Christ; who know that following him means living dangerously; who want to live the gospel without compromise; who have no greater desire than to have his signature written on the pages of their lives. "Behold," Jesus proclaims, "I stand at the door and knock." You may have already met him at the door...but do you truly know him? Have you been transformed by His furious, passionate, unexplainable love? Join Brennan Manning, the bestselling author of *The Ragamuffin Gospel*, on a personal journey to experience Christ's love and live with His passion. This is a republication of a Christian classic. Have you noticed that contemporary Christianity is lacking backbone? Every day our culture slides farther and farther away from God and it seems we are powerless to stop it. We need the Spirit of the original apostles. They turned the world upside down with their radical faith in God. They changed the course of history and we can too. But if we want the same results the got, we must have the same faith that they had. Aggressive Christianity is a call to radical discipleship. It will challenge even those who think they are sold-out. It will call you to be what God truly intended you to be. In this book Catherine Booth explains what it means to be a real Christian, and how real Christians change the world. She lays the foundation of what true conversion is, how the Gospel is advanced, and shows how we can and must recapture the Spirit of of the original apostles. This is a serious call for serious believers. Maybe it's time you walked in *Aggressive Christianity* In the last book by the leading evangelical churchman of the 20th century, John Stott opens up what it means at root to be a follower of Jesus. He explores eight aspects of Christian discipleship which are too often neglected and yet deserve to be taken seriously: non-conformity, Christ-likeness, maturity, creation-care, simplicity, balance, dependence and death. The message is simple, classic and personal: Jesus is Lord. He calls. We follow. It is not a changing culture, reduced resources, or a rescinding Christian memory that creates the greatest challenges for the church in the West. It is the lack of a clear commitment to the intentional, authentic, and contextual expressions of missional disciple-making, which will shape current and future generations of followers of Jesus to express the values of the Kingdom today. This book offers stimulating historical, biblical, and theological reflections on discipleship and considers some of the possibilities and opportunities afforded to us by our post-Christian context. Missional discipleship allows the *missio Dei* to shape us in our engagement our practices and sustain us in the lifelong journey of becoming and developing disciples that follow Jesus today. *New Monasticism* is a growing movement of committed Christians who are recovering the radical discipleship of monasticism and unearthing a fresh expression of Christianity in America. It's not centered in a traditional monastery--many New Monastics are married with children--but instead its members live radically, settling in abandoned sections of society, committing to community, sharing incomes, serving the poor, and practicing spiritual disciplines. *New Monasticism* by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove offers an insider's perspective into the life of the New Monastics and shows how this movement is dependent on the church for stability, diversity, and structure. A must-read for New Monastics or those considering joining the movement, it will also appeal to pastors, leaders, those interested in the emerging church, and 20- and 30-somethings searching for new ways to be Christian. Classic, accessible introduction to the Christian faith by a respected author. Explains Christian beginnings, beliefs, and behavior and includes discussion questions. John Stott's legacy of faithful Christian discipleship continues to impact Christians on every continent and in every sphere of life. This book pays homage to that legacy and to Stott's unwavering commitment to Christ's transformative Lordship over all facets of existence, especially those we may find particularly convenient to ignore. In this collection of essays, integral mission scholars and practitioners from around the world - many of whom knew John Stott personally and worked with him extensively - reflect on several of the concerns that developed and deepened over the course of Stott's life, reminding us that Christian obedience must include caring for God's creation, engaging in social action and advocacy, and supporting church leadership of the Majority World. *Living Radical Discipleship* calls us to repentance, to recommitment, and to wholehearted discipleship. *New York Times* bestseller *What is Jesus worth to you?* It's easy for American Christians to forget how Jesus said his followers would actually live, what their new lifestyle would actually look like. They would, he said, leave behind security, money, convenience, even family for him. They would abandon everything for the gospel. They would take up their crosses daily... But who do you know who lives like that? Do you? In *Radical*, David Platt challenges you to consider with an open heart how we have manipulated the gospel to fit our cultural preferences. He shows what Jesus actually said about being his disciple--then invites you to believe and obey what you have heard. And he tells the dramatic story of what is happening as a "successful" suburban church decides to get serious about the gospel according to Jesus. Finally, he urges you to join in *The Radical Experiment* -- a one-year journey in authentic discipleship that will transform how you live in a world that desperately needs the Good News Jesus came to bring. Exploring the response of evangelicals to the collapse of 'Greater Christian Britain' in Australia in the long 1960s, this book provides a new religious perspective to the end of empire and a fresh national perspective to the end of Christendom. In the turbulent 1960s, two foundations of the Western world rapidly and unexpectedly collapsed. 'Christendom', marked by the dominance of discursive Christianity in public culture, and 'Greater Britain', the powerful sentimental and strategic union of Britain and its settler societies, disappeared from the collective mental map with startling speed. To illuminate these contemporaneous global shifts, this book takes as a case study the response of Australian evangelical Christian leaders to the cultural and religious crises encountered between 1959 and 1979. Far from being a narrow national study, this book places its case studies in the context of the latest North American and European scholarship on secularisation, imperialism and evangelicalism. Drawing on a wide range of archival sources, it examines critical figures such as Billy Graham, Fred Nile and Hans Mol, as well as issues of empire, counter-cultural movements and racial and national identity. This study will be of particular interest to any scholar of Evangelicalism in the twentieth century. It will also be a useful resource for academics looking into the wider impacts of the decline of Christianity and the British Empire in Western civilisation. In the clear and compelling fashion of C. S. Lewis's classic *Mere Christianity*, Lee Camp here sets forth his vision of what it means to truly follow Christ in the twenty-first century. Drawing on a sound biblical framework of what disciples believe and therefore what they should do, Camp challenges Christians to put obedience to Jesus as Lord ahead of allegiances to all earthly authorities--be they nationalistic, political, economic, or cultural. To Camp, that means loving one's enemies, not killing them; evangelizing by showing Jesus, not just talking about him; and allowing God's grace to transform one's notions of wealth. This substantially revised and expanded second edition updates examples, adds chapter introductions and summaries, and includes an extensive study guide and a reading guide. - Publisher. This collection introduces and explores "watershed discipleship" as a critical, contextual, and constructive approach to ecological theology and practice, and features emerging voices from a generation that has grown up under the shadow of climate catastrophe. *Watershed Discipleship* is a "triple entendre" that recognizes we are in a watershed historical moment of crisis, focuses on our intrinsically bioregional locus as followers of Jesus, and urges us to become disciples of our watersheds. Bibliographic framing essays by Myers trace his journey into a bioregionalist Christian faith and practice and offer reflections on incarnational theology, hermeneutics, and ecclesiology. The essays feature more than a dozen activists, educators, and practitioners under the age of forty, whose work and witness attest to a growing movement of resistance and reimagination across North America. This anthology overviews the bioregional paradigm and its theological and political

significance for local sustainability, restorative justice, and spiritual renewal. Contributors reread both biblical texts and churchly practices (such as mission, baptism, and liturgy) through the lens of "re-place-ment." Herein is a comprehensive and engaged call for a "Transition church" that can help turn our history around toward environmental resiliency and social justice, by passionate advocates on the front lines of watershed discipleship. CONTRIBUTORS: Sasha Adkins, Jay Beck, Tevyn East, Erinn Fahey, Katarina Friesen, Matt Humphrey, Vickie Machado, Jonathan McRay, Sarah Nolan, Reyna Ortega, Dave Pritchett, Erynn Smith, Sarah Thompson, Lydia Wylie-Kellermann This is an introduction and a refresher course in Christianity's essentials. What is Christianity all about? What does a Christian believe? How do I live as a Christian? Following Jesus Journeys in Radical Discipleship: Essays in Honor of Ronald J Sider. What does it mean to follow Jesus in the 21st century? The same that it always has: radically and faithfully. Ronald J. Sider and the organization that he founded, Evangelicals for Social Action, are most respected for their pioneering work in the area of evangelical social concern. However, Sider's great contribution to social justice is but a part of a larger vision - namely, biblical discipleship. His works, which span more than four decades, have guided the faithful to be authentic gospel-bearers in ecclesial, cultural and political arenas. This book honors Ron Sider, by bringing together a group of scholar-activists, old and young, to reflect upon the gospel and its radical implications for the 21st century. This list includes Craig Keener, Vinay Samuel, Melba Maggay, John Perkins and Heid Unruh.

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