



The Radical Disciple: Some Neglected Aspects of Our Calling

By John Stott

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What is a life of radical discipleship? At the root, it means we let Jesus set the agenda of our lives. We aren't selective. We don't pick and choose what is congenial and stay away from what is costly. No. He is Lord of all of life. In the last book by the leading evangelical churchman of the twentieth century, John Stott opens up what it means to truly be a follower of Jesus. In a refreshing and accessible style, he explores eight aspects of Christian discipleship which are too often neglected and yet deserve to be taken seriously: nonconformity, Christlikeness, maturity, creation care, simplicity, balance, dependence and death. Here, including the last public sermon he ever preached, Stott offers wisdom gained from a lifetime of consistent Christian commitment. In addition, he poignantly reflects on his last years of life and ministry. The message is simple, classic and personal: Jesus is Lord. He calls. We follow.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

If this book of reflections on what it means to be a faithful Christian nonconformist has a poignant quality, it is not solely because its author, one of the world's leading evangelical preachers and writers, ends it with the word: Farewell! The author of *Basic Christianity* and *Why I Am a Christian* focuses what is likely his final written work eight aspects of Christian practice that he feels are not taken seriously enough. These include nonconformity, Christlikeness, maturity, care for the creation, simplicity, balance, dependence, and death. Of particular interest are the author's ideas on materialism and where Christians are asked to be active in advocating and practicing social and ecological justice. While the writer's unadorned prose, threaded with biblical references, adheres to the essentials of Christianity orthodoxy, his deep concern for the prophetic and evangelical dimensions of Christianity comes through loud and clear. This slim volume will have special meaning for admirers, but it may also touch those unacquainted with this longtime evangelical lion as his public voice falls silent. (May)

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Review

"This is a (nearly) pocket-sized summary of practical and biblical wisdom from one of the giants of evangelical Christianity in the last century?one of those books that takes an hour or two to read and months to digest. Besides, who doesn't want to buy John Stott's last book?" (Leadership Journal, September 2010,)

"While the writer's unadorned prose, threaded with biblical references, adheres to the essentials of Christianity orthodoxy, his deep concern for the prophetic and evangelical dimensions of Christianity comes through loud and clear." (Publisher's Weekly, April 12, 2010)

"Stott's writing is still crisp, cutting, and insightful, and his life-long love and devotion to God comes through clearly in every word of this challenging and encouraging book." (Jeff Friend, Worship Leader Magazine)

"Dr. Stott has gone to be with the Lord but he has left behind for us a rich legacy of biblical expression. Read his final words in *The Radical Disciple*." (John Lathrop, The Pneuma Review, Spring 2012)

"This book will be a rich inheritance for the evangelical community for decades to come." (Brad Sumner, Mennonite Brethren Herald, May 2010)

"Considered a dean of evangelical leaders of the last half century, Stott still deserves to be heard when he speaks. He continues to be relevant in analyzing destructive philosophical and lifestyle trends. As he approaches the end of his own life, he has provoking, yet comforting thoughts regarding the deaths of believers . . . An emphatic yes for church and Bible-college libraries." (Church Libraries, Fall 2010)

"Knowing this is Stott's final book, especially poignant are final chapters on dependence and death. Readers will reap the fruits of the author's solid grasp of Scripture and life experience. Highly recommended for anyone desiring to live an authentic Christian lifestyle." (Neil Bartlett, CBA Retailers & Resources, August 2010)

"This slim volume is good reading, a lovely immersion into the truth of God's revelation in Scripture, full of

wise words for those who find themselves on a pilgrimage through a dark world towards a City filled with divine light. *The Radical Disciple* is more like what I imagine he might say to a young friend who is accompanying him to the place of his retirement, and who has the chance to listen in on what Stott is most exercised to pray for when he thinks of the church he has served so faithfully for so many years. It isn't the final word, perhaps, but it's a timely one, and a word of wisdom worth heeding." (Dennis Haack, Critique, 2010)

"Stott's book is not a marriage book, per se. It is a discipleship book, but most of the chapters have direct application to marriage. If we become Christlike, we will be different in our marriages. As we understand, pursue, and develop other neglected aspects of discipleship?non-conformity, maturity, simplicity, balance, and dependence?we should become better marriage partners. Stott, writing as though this is his farewell book, offers wisdom from his long pastoral experience. His transparency about his own mortality?'As I lay down my pen for the last time at the age of 88'?brought me to tears in several sections." (Susan Olasky, World Magazine, June 5, 2010)

"Stott examines eight aspects of radical Christian discipleship. . . . Characteristically, he gives attention both to the need for personal spiritual discipline that helps the individual believer grow into the likeness of Christ and to the need for social action that gives evidence of conversion. . . . Stott left a precious gift to readers. Treasure it, and be changed by it." (Ken Camp, Baptist Standard, February 16, 2015)

About the Author

John R. W. Stott (1921-2011) has been known worldwide as a preacher, evangelist and communicator of Scripture. For many years he served as rector of All Souls Church in London, where he carried out an effective urban pastoral ministry. A leader among evangelicals in Britain, the United States and around the world, Stott was a principal framer of the landmark Lausanne Covenant (1974). His many books have sold millions of copies around the world and in dozens of languages. Stott's best-known work, *Basic Christianity*, has sold two million copies and has been translated into more than 60 languages. Other titles include *The Cross of Christ*, *Understanding the Bible*, *The Contemporary Christian*, *Evangelical Truth*, *Issues Facing Christians Today*, *The Incomparable Christ*, *Why I Am a Christian* and *Through the Bible Through the Year*, a daily devotional. He has also written eight volumes in *The Bible Speaks Today* series of New Testament expositions. Whether in the West or in the Two-Thirds World, a hallmark of Stott's ministry has been expository preaching that addresses the hearts and minds of contemporary men and women. Stott was honored by *Time* magazine in 2005 as one of the "100 Most Influential People in the World" and was named in the Queen's New Years Honours list as Commander of the Order of the British Empire. In 1969, Stott founded the Langham Trust to fund scholarships for young evangelical leaders from the Majority World. He then founded the Evangelical Literature Trust, which provided books for students, pastors and theological libraries in the Majority World. These two trusts continued as independent charities until 2001, when they were joined as a single charity: the Langham Partnership. Langham's vision continues today to see churches in the Majority World equipped for mission and growing to maturity in Christ through nurturing national movements for biblical preaching, fostering the creation and distribution of evangelical literature, and enhancing evangelical theological education.

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