

The Kingdom Way of Being Radical

When we think of being radical, we think of young people doing extreme things or believing things that are ‘way out’. This is the current understanding of ‘radical’ in the vernacular. However, the real meaning of ‘radical’ comes from an ancient word referring to ‘roots’, not extremism – e.g. The first root that a seed produces when it germinates is called the radical.

A person who is radical has had their roots changed. This is what the word is understood to mean in the Kingdom. When we come into the Kingdom, the deep, intimate love relationship that we develop with the King (Jesus) causes us to submit to him so he can change us from the roots upwards. Because of this, the “new man” that appears, speaks, thinks, acts, believes, and understands differently. Christians, friends and family see the radical change and know that we do things differently to them.

To be radical in every way, a person needs to be radicalized. This word has negative connotations because it’s used in reference to terrorists in today’s world. However, to become completely radical, a person must undergo a process of radicalization. In the Kingdom, this comes from the processes the Lord takes us through to change us into who he wants us to become. It’s true that our spirit is renewed when we are born again, but we need to have our thinking changed so we have his mind. We also need our heart changed so we have his heart.

The radical way the Jesus People of the 1906s and your charismatics of the 1980s behaved was not a work of the Spirit, but of their soul and mind. This type of radical behaviour can’t be labelled as Kingdom radicalism because it didn’t originate from the King.

As sons, we must allow Father to change us so we operate and think like his son (Jesus of Nazareth) did. This is a deep process, right down to the root of who we are, how we think and what we believe. Nothing less is required for sons. Our radical nature we then display will be because we are like our Father, not because we believe a holy book or the teaching we’ve been given. We won’t be radical like extreme young people, but radically different to everyone else (Father’s way).

Frank Viola covers this topic in an evangelical/part-Kingdom way in one of his 2019 podcasts.¹

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1 – Frank Viola (9-1-2019) “Radicalization vs. Legalism and Libertinism”
insurgence.podbean.com/e/radicalization-vs-legalism-and-libertinism