THE QUESTION

What does it mean to be a radical Christian?

Asked by a THF member on May 18, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 11 numbered quotations · the 46 early Christian passages and 319 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-does-it-mean-to-be-a-radical-christian

The short answer *Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words*

The early writers never use the word radical, but they describe a costly, whole-hearted way of following Jesus. A Christian denies himself, takes up his cross, loves and blesses enemies, does not repay evil, holds earthly goods loosely, and lives as a stranger in this world, keeping God's commands by His grace.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

IN THIS STUDY

1	Following Jesus starts with denying yourself	**2**
2	Taking up the cross means real suffering	**2**
3	Love and bless even your enemies	**3**
4	Do not repay evil with evil	**3**
5	Earthly goods are held loosely and shared	**4**
6	Christians live as strangers in this world	**4**
7	Patient meekness makes believers like God	**4**
	What these passages don't tell us	**5**
	The Sources: 46 early Christian passages and 319 Bible verses, with links	**5**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

POINT 1 OF 7

Following Jesus starts with denying yourself

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Origen explains self-denial as a real change of life, leaving the old wicked self behind. Irenaeus calls denying oneself and following Christ the first thing, and says it leads on toward maturity in Christ.

1 "A man denies himself when he wipes out, by a great change, his former life that was spent in wickedness."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Commentary on Matthew* 12 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 30, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

2 "For truly the first thing is to deny oneself and follow Christ; and those who do this are led to perfection, having fulfilled all their Teacher's will, becoming children of God through spiritual rebirth, and heirs of the kingdom of heaven; those who seek this first will not be abandoned."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 20, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 7

Taking up the cross means real suffering

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus insists the cross Jesus spoke of is actual suffering, first His own and then His disciples'. Origen describes the disciple as one who says farewell to this life and loses it to the world for Christ's sake.

3 "He spoke of no other cross than the suffering He would undergo first, and His disciples afterward."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book III* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 19, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

4 “If someone has grasped what salvation really is, and wishes to obtain the salvation of his own life, let that man say farewell to this life, deny himself, take up his own cross, and follow me, losing his own life to the world.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Commentary on Matthew* 12 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 29, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 7

Love and bless even your enemies

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Didache puts love of enemies at the heart of the way of life. Tertullian says this command aims at something higher than the ordinary goodness of the world, which is what sets Christians apart.

5 “And the teaching of these words is this: Bless those who curse you, and pray for your enemies, and fast for those who persecute you.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 1 (c. 50–120 AD) **Source 1, page 5** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

6 “For our religion commands us to love even our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us, aiming at a perfection of its own and seeking in its disciples something higher than the ordinary goodness of the world.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *To Scapula* 1 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 26, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 7

Do not repay evil with evil

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Didache repeats Jesus' teaching on turning the other cheek. The Apostolic Constitutions add that an injured believer should not take revenge but bear the wrong patiently and leave it to the Lord.

7 “If someone strikes your right cheek, turn the other cheek to him also, and you will be perfect.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 1 (c. 50–120 AD) **Source 1, page 5** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

8 “When you are injured, do not take revenge, but endure it with patience.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** **Source 42, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
(c. 250–380 AD)
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 7

Earthly goods are held loosely and shared

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian looks back to the first believers in Acts, who sold property and gave the money for the poor. He presents their generosity as a model of love and of trust in a heavenly inheritance.

9 “Then they sold houses and farms, and gladly and generously brought the money to the apostles to be given out to the poor.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* **Source 37, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
(c. 248–258 AD)
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 7

Christians live as strangers in this world

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Hermas reminds God's servants that their true city is elsewhere. They should not pile up land and buildings here, as if this world were their lasting home.

10 “You know that you who are servants of God live in a foreign land, because your city is far away from this one.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hermas,** *Shepherd* **Source 4, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
(c. 90–150 AD)
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 7

Patient meekness makes believers like God

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian teaches that the gentle and patient believer imitates God the Father. For him the goal of this demanding life is not harshness but becoming like God in love and patience.

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

11 “And so that we may understand more fully, beloved brothers, that patience is something of God, and that whoever is gentle, patient, and meek is an imitator of God the Father: when the Lord in His Gospel was giving commands for salvation, and teaching His disciples toward perfection by setting forth divine warnings, He declared and said, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.’”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 34, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- The early writers never use the word radical; this page applies their picture of discipleship to that modern term.
- These passages do not require every believer to sell all property, and they do not describe a radical Christian as violent or rebellious.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 46 early Christian passages and 319 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–46, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 47–191, in Bible order), then 174 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF’s updated English unless marked “1885 English” (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). “… [continues online]” marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *46 passages from 15 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 1 **Quotes 5, 7, page 3** “There is a great difference between these two ways. The way of life is this. First, you shall love God who made you. Second, you shall love your neighbor as… [continues online] **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

Mathetes, *c. 80–200 AD · source 2*

2 *Epistle to Diognetus* (1885 English; on point 6) “Christians dwell in the world, yet are not of the world… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · sources 3–7*

3 *Shepherd* “all will live to God who keep these commandments and walk in them… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Shepherd* **Quote 10, page 4** return to his own city again. Foolish, unstable, and miserable man! Do you not understand that all these things belong to someone else and are under someone else’s authority… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Shepherd* (1885 English; on point 5) “the commandments of the Lord, and you will be approved, and inscribed among the number of those who observe His commands.] And if you do any good beyond what is… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Shepherd* the Lord," he said, "and keep His commandments." Ecclesiastes 12:13 For if you keep God's commandments, you will be strong in everything you do, and everything you do… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Shepherd* (1885 English; on point 5) at peace one with another, and visit each other, and bear each other's burdens, and do not partake of God's creatures alone, but give abundantly of them to… [continues online] **read ›**

Polycarp, *c. 100–155 AD · sources 8–9*

8 *Epistle to the Philippians* (1885 English; on point 3) potentates, and princes, and for those that persecute and hate you… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Epistle to the Philippians* (1885 English; on point 4) rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 10–12*

10 *First Apology* (on point 3) “heavenly Father desires the repentance of the sinner more than their punishment. Regarding our love for all, He taught, “If you love those who love you, what new thing are… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *First Apology* (1885 English; on point 5) “who valued above all things the acquisition of wealth and possessions, now bring what we have into a common stock, and communicate to every one in need… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *Martyrdom of Justin Martyr* (on point 2) the prefect Rusticus said to Chariton, “Tell me more, Chariton, are you also a Christian?” Chariton replied, “I am a Christian by the command of God.” Rusticus the prefect asked… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · sources 13–16*

13 *Diatessaron* 9 (on point 3) “5:43 You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. Matthew 5:44 But I say to you, Love your enemies, and pray for… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Diatessaron* 23 (1885 English; on point 1) “And Jesus called the multitudes with his disciples, and said to them, Whosoever would come after me, let him deny himself, and take his cross every day, and 46 come… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Diatessaron* 13 (1885 English; on point 2) “Matthew 10:38 And every one that does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of 26 me… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Diatessaron* 9 (1885 English; on point 4) “whosoever smites you on your right 8 cheek, turn to him also the other… [continues online] **read ›**

Athenagoras, *c. 170–190 AD · source 17*

17 *A Plea for the Christians* 11 (on point 3) “to think of us as atheists. What, then, are the teachings in which we are raised? I say to you, "Love your enemies. Bless those who curse you. Pray for… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 18–21*

18 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English; on point 3) “not to love our neighbours only, but even our enemies… [continues online] **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

19 *Against Heresies: Book III* **Quote 3, page 2** however, He was not supposed to suffer but should escape from Jesus, why did He urge His disciples to take up the cross and follow Him—when these people claim… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* (1885 English) **Quote 2, page 2** "truly the first thing is to deny one's self and to follow Christ… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Against Heresies: Book III* (1885 English; on point 2) "whosoever will save his life, shall lose it… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 22–23*

22 *Stromata* 4.14 (1885 English; on point 3) "great also is benignity! Love your enemies, it is said, bless them who curse you, and pray for them who despitefully use you, Matthew 5:44-45 and the like… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *Instructor* 3.12 (1885 English; on point 3) "now He bids us love our enemies, bless them that curse us, and pray for them that despitefully use us… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 24–28*

24 *Against Marcion* 15 (on point 3) here that old command of the Creator, "Speak to the ears of those who listen to you," "Love your enemies, and bless those who hate you, and pray for those… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *On Patience* 6 (1885 English; on point 3) "law has found more than it has lost, while Christ says, Love your personal enemies, and bless your cursers, and pray for your persecutors, that you may be sons of… [continues online] **read ›**

26 *To Scapula* 1 **Quote 6, page 3** "our religion commands us to love even our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us, aiming… [continues online] **read ›**

27 *On Patience* 8 (1885 English; on point 4) "one attempt to provoke you by manual violence, the monition of the Lord is at hand: To him, He says, who smites you on the face, turn the other cheek… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *Apology* 31 (on point 3) "5:44 Who, then, are greater enemies and persecutors of Christians… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 29–33*

29 *Commentary on Matthew* 12 **Quote 4, page 3** "having lost it for my sake and for the sake of all my teaching… [continues online] **read ›**

30 *Commentary on Matthew* 12 **Quote 1, page 2** Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wills to come after Me," and so on, in Matthew 16:24. By these words He shows that the will to come after… [continues online] **read ›**

31 *Against Celsus* 5 (on point 6) "indeed they do in a sense separate themselves and stand aloof from those who are aliens from the commonwealth of God and strangers to His covenants, in order that they… [continues online] **read ›**

32 *Against Celsus* 25 (1885 English; on point 4) "on the other, we have read, I say unto you, Whoever shall smite you on the one cheek, turn to him the other also… [continues online] **read ›**

33 *Commentary on Matthew* 10 (1885 English; on point 5) "you will give the same application, if the field containing the hidden treasure be Christ, for those who give up all things and follow Him, have, as it were in… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 34–40*

34 *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quote 11, page 5** "I say unto you, Love your enemies, and pray for them which persecute you… [continues online] **read ›**

35 *Treatises* (on point 4) "goods back when they are taken from you. When you are struck on one cheek, you should offer the other cheek to the one who strikes you. You should forgive… [continues online] **read ›**

36 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 3) "I say unto you, Love your enemies, and pray for them which persecute you… [continues online] **read ›**

37 *Treatises* **Quote 9, page 4** "was there any distinction among them, nor did they… [continues online] **read ›**

38 *Treatises* (on point 5) things, dearest brothers? By what reasoning do we defend the minds of rich men, buried under an unholy barrenness and a kind of dark night? With what excuse do we… [continues online] **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

39 *Epistles* (1885 English; on point 6) “2:15 And similarly Peter exhorts: As strangers, says he, and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul, having your conversation honest among the Gentiles… [continues online] **read ›**

40 *Treatises* God's own showing. Moreover, in another place, the same apostle instructs the righteous and the doers of good works, and those who lay up for themselves treasures in heaven… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 41–44*

41 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 3) “first way, therefore, is the way of life, and it is this, which the law also commands: Love the Lord God with all your mind and with all your soul… [continues online] **read ›**

42 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 4** “20:22 For so says He again in the Gospel: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute… [continues online] **read ›**

43 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 5) him minister more to them according to his ability. And if he is able to sell all his means of living and redeem them out of prison, he will be… [continues online] **read ›**

44 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 1) He says, "If any man will come after me, let him come… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · source 45*

45 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (1885 English; on point 5) added, that no man could be His disciple unless he gave up all that he had… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · source 46*

46 *Divine Institutes* 12 (1885 English; on point 5) “one will perhaps say: If I shall do all these things, I shall have no possessions… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *145 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

47 **Genesis 6:22** Noah did all that the Lord God commanded him; so he did. **read ›**

48 **Genesis 7:5** Noah did all that the Lord God commanded him. **read ›**

49 **Genesis 31:18** and he carried off all his possessions and all his household which he had acquired in Mesopotamia, and all that was his, to go to Isaac his father in the land of Canaan. **read ›**

50 **Genesis 49:18** waiting for the salvation of the Lord. **read ›**

51 **Exodus 16:18** When they measured it by the omer, the one who had gathered much had nothing left over, and the one who had gathered less lacked nothing; each gathered for those who belonged to him. **read ›**

52 **Exodus 19:6** And you shall be to me a royal priesthood and a holy nation.’ These are the words you shall speak to the children of Israel.” **read ›**

53 **Exodus 23:4** And if you meet your enemy’s ox or his beast of burden going astray, you shall turn them back and return them to him. **read ›**

54 **Exodus 23:13** Keep all that I have said to you; and you shall make no mention of the name of other gods, nor ever let it be heard out of your mouth. **read ›**

55 **Exodus 40:16** Moses did everything that the Lord commanded him; so he did. **read ›**

56 **Leviticus 10:10** to distinguish between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean, **read ›**

57 **Leviticus 19:18** Your hand shall not take vengeance, and you shall not bear a grudge against the children of your people; but you shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord. **read ›**

58 **Leviticus 20:7** You shall be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy. **read ›**

59 **Leviticus 20:26** You shall be holy to me, for I, the Lord your God, am holy, who separated you from all the nations to be mine. **read ›**

60 **Leviticus 22:10** No stranger shall eat holy things; a temporary resident with a priest, or a hired servant, shall not eat holy things. **read ›**

61 **Leviticus 22:31** You shall keep my commandments and do them. **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

62 **Leviticus 26:37** Brother shall disregard brother as in war, though no one is attacking; and you shall not be able to stand against your enemies. **read ›**

63 **Numbers 16:26** And he spoke to the congregation, saying, “Separate yourselves from the tents of these hardened men, and touch nothing of all that is theirs, lest you perish together with them in all their sin.” **read ›**

64 **Deuteronomy 6:25** And it shall be an act of mercy for us, if we take care to do all these commandments before the Lord our God, as he commanded us.” **read ›**

65 **Deuteronomy 7:6** For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; and the Lord your God preferred you to be a special people to him above all the nations that are on the face of the earth. **read ›**

66 **Deuteronomy 10:13** to keep the commandments of the Lord your God and his ordinances that I command you today, that it may be well with you? **read ›**

67 **Deuteronomy 11:27** the blessing, if you hear the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today; **read ›**

68 **Deuteronomy 12:28** Take care and listen, and you shall do all the words that I command you, so that it may go well with you and with your sons forever, if you do what is pleasing and good before the Lord your God. **read ›**

69 **Deuteronomy 13:18** if you listen to the voice of the Lord your God, to keep his commandments, all that I command you today, to do what is good and pleasing before the Lord your God. (Septuagint Deuteronomy 13:19 (Deuteronomy 13:18 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

70 **Deuteronomy 14:2** for you are a holy people to the Lord your God, and the Lord your God has chosen you to be a special people for himself out of all the nations on the face of the earth. **read ›**

71 **Deuteronomy 27:10** and you shall obey the voice of the Lord your God, and do all his commandments and his ordinances, which I command you today. **read ›**

72 **Deuteronomy 28:1** And it shall be, if you will hear with hearing the voice of the Lord your God, to keep and do all these commandments that I command you today, that the Lord your God shall set you high above all the nations of the earth; **read ›**

73 **Deuteronomy 28:9** May the Lord raise you up for himself as a holy people, as he swore to your fathers, if you listen to the voice of the Lord your God and walk in all his ways; **read ›**

74 **Deuteronomy 30:7** And the Lord your God shall put these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you. **read ›**

75 **Deuteronomy 30:8** And you shall return and obey the voice of the Lord your God, and do his commandments, which I command you today. **read ›**

76 **Joshua 8:8** You shall do according to this word. Behold, I have commanded you.” **read ›**

77 **Judges 20:8** And all the people arose as one man, saying, “None of us will go away to his tent, and none of us will turn back to his house. **read ›**

78 **1 Kings 8:50** and be gracious to their unrighteousness in which they sinned against you, and with regard to all their transgressions by which they transgressed against you; and you shall give them compassion before those who carry them captive, and they shall have compassion on them; **read ›**

79 **1 Chronicles 29:15** For we are temporary residents before you, and live as foreigners, as all our fathers did; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding. **read ›**

80 **Ezra 9:9** For we are slaves; yet in our slavery the Lord our God has not forsaken us, but has extended mercy to us before the kings of the Persians, to give us reviving, so that they might raise up the house of our God and restore its desolate places, and to give us a wall in Judah and Jerusalem. **read ›**

81 **Nehemiah 10:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

82 **Esther 8:11** in which he commanded them to use their own laws in every city, and to come to their own aid, and to deal with their opponents and those who attacked them as they wished, **read ›**

83 **Job 4:10** The strength of the lion, and the voice of the lioness, and the proud cry of dragons are quenched. **read ›**

84 **Psalms 111:7** The works of his hands are truth and judgment; all his commandments are faithful, (Septuagint Psalm 110:7 (Psalm 111:7 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

85 **Proverbs 4:22** For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all flesh. **read ›**

86 **Proverbs 10:13** He who brings forth wisdom from his lips strikes the senseless man with a rod. **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

87 **Ecclesiastes 8:14** There is a vanity that is done on the earth: that there are righteous men to whom it happens as the work of the ungodly, and there are ungodly men to whom it happens as the work of the righteous. I said that this also is vanity. **read ›**

88 **Song of Solomon 6:3** I am my kinsman's, and my kinsman is mine; he shepherds among the lilies. **read ›**

89 **Isaiah 7:21** And it shall be in that day that a man shall rear a young cow and two sheep; **read ›**

90 **Isaiah 7:22** and it shall be that, from drinking a great deal of milk, everyone who is left upon the land shall eat butter and honey. **read ›**

91 **Isaiah 8:9** Know, O Gentiles, and be defeated; listen, to the end of the earth; you who have grown strong, be defeated; for if you grow strong again, again you shall be defeated. **read ›**

92 **Isaiah 8:18** Behold, I and the children whom God has given me." And there shall be signs and wonders in the house of Israel from the Lord of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion. **read ›**

93 **Isaiah 13:1** The vision which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw against Babylon. **read ›**

94 **Isaiah 13:9** For behold, the day of the Lord is coming, incurable, a day of wrath and anger, to make the world a desert and to destroy the sinners out of it. **read ›**

95 **Isaiah 13:13** For the heaven will be enraged, and the earth will be shaken from its foundations, because of the wrath of the anger of the Lord of hosts, in the day when his wrath comes upon it. **read ›**

96 **Isaiah 13:15** For whoever is caught will be overcome, and those who are gathered together will fall by the sword. **read ›**

97 **Isaiah 13:16** And they will dash their children to pieces before them, and plunder their houses, and take their wives. **read ›**

98 **Isaiah 14:3** And it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord will give you rest from your anguish and your anger, and from your hard slavery, in which you served them. **read ›**

99 **Jeremiah 32:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

100 **Jeremiah 33:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

101 **Daniel 1:14** And he listened to them and tested them for ten days. **read ›**

102 **1 Esdras 8:94** as has been decided by you and by all who obey the law of the Lord. **read ›**

103 **1 Esdras 9:9** and do his will, and separate yourselves from the nations of the land and from the foreign wives." **read ›**

104 **Tobit 12:10** but those who sin are enemies of their own life. **read ›**

105 **Judith 4:10** they and their wives and their little children and their cattle; and every temporary resident and hired man and those bought with their money put sackcloth around their waists. **read ›**

106 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:2** and because, though wronged before, they did not harm them, they gave thanks, and begged their pardon for having been at odds. **read ›**

107 **Wisdom of Sirach 2:12** Woe to cowardly hearts and to slack hands, and to the sinner who walks on two paths! **read ›**

108 **Wisdom of Sirach 2:15** Those who fear the Lord will not disobey his words, and those who love him will keep his ways. **read ›**

109 **Wisdom of Sirach 8:11** Do not rise up from the presence of an arrogant man, lest he sit like an ambush for your mouth. **read ›**

110 **Wisdom of Sirach 10:6** Do not bear a grudge against your neighbor for every wrong, and do nothing at all by deeds of arrogance. **read ›**

111 **Wisdom of Sirach 15:15** If you are willing, you will keep the commandments, and to act faithfully is of your own good will. **read ›**

112 **Wisdom of Sirach 24:22** Whoever obeys me will not be put to shame, and those who work in me will not sin." **read ›**

113 **Wisdom of Sirach 25:14** any calamity, but not calamity from those who hate; any vengeance, but not the vengeance of enemies. **read ›**

114 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:2** Forgive your neighbor the wrong he has done, and then, when you pray, your sins will be released. **read ›**

115 **Wisdom of Sirach 32:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

116 **Wisdom of Sirach 35:23** In every work trust your own soul, for this too is the keeping of the commandments. **read ›**

117 **Wisdom of Sirach 35:24** He who believes the law pays attention to the commandments, and he who trusts in the Lord will not suffer loss. **read ›**

118 **Wisdom of Sirach 39:16** All the works of the Lord are very good, and every command will come to pass in its time. **read ›**

119 **Wisdom of Sirach 39:31** they will rejoice in his commandment, and they will be made ready upon the earth for their uses, and in their seasons they will not transgress the word. **read ›**

120 **Baruch 1:6** And they collected money, as each one was able, **read ›**

121 **Baruch 4:25** My children, endure with patience the anger that has come upon you from God. Your enemy has pursued you, but you will soon see his destruction, and you will tread upon their necks. **read ›**

122 **1 Maccabees 4:22** they all fled into the land of the foreigners. **read ›**

123 **1 Maccabees 6:54** So only a few men were left in the sanctuary, because the famine had overpowered them; and they were scattered, each to his own place. **read ›**

124 **1 Maccabees 10:13** and each one left his place and went away to his own land. **read ›**

125 **2 Maccabees 8:14** Others sold all that they had left, and at the same time begged the Lord to rescue those who had been sold by the ungodly Nicanor before he had even met them, **read ›**

126 **2 Maccabees 8:28** After the Sabbath they gave some of the spoils to those who had been tortured and to the widows and orphans, and the rest they divided among themselves and the children. **read ›**

127 **3 Maccabees 3:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

128 **3 Maccabees 6:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

129 **3 Maccabees 7:22** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

130 **4 Maccabees 7:21** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

131 **4 Maccabees 7:22** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

132 **4 Maccabees 8:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

133 **4 Maccabees 8:18** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

134 **4 Maccabees 8:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

135 **4 Maccabees 9:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

136 **4 Maccabees 13:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

137 **4 Maccabees 13:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

138 **4 Maccabees 13:13** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

139 **4 Maccabees 13:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

140 **4 Maccabees 13:16** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

141 **4 Maccabees 14:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

142 **4 Maccabees 16:19** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

143 **1 Enoch 6:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

144 **1 Enoch 51:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

145 **1 Enoch 95:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

146 **1 Enoch 108:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

147 **Matthew 5:39** But I tell you, do not resist him who is evil; but whoever strikes you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. **read ›**

148 **Matthew 5:43** “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ **read ›**

149 **Matthew 5:44** But I tell you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who mistreat you and persecute you, **read ›**

150 **Matthew 10:38** He who does not take his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. **read ›**

151 **Matthew 16:24** Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. **read ›**

152 **Mark 8:34** He called the crowd to him with his disciples and said to them, “Whoever wishes to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

153 **Mark 8:35** For whoever wants to save his life will lose it; and whoever will lose his life for my sake and the sake of the gospel will save it. **read ›**

154 **Luke 5:11** When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything, and followed him. **read ›**

155 **Luke 6:27** But I tell you who hear: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **read ›**

156 **Luke 6:28** bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. **read ›**

157 **Luke 6:29** To him who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from him who takes your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. **read ›**

158 **Luke 8:17** For nothing is hidden that will not be revealed, nor anything secret that will not be known and come to light. **read ›**

159 **Luke 9:23** He said to all, “If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. **read ›**

160 **Luke 14:26** “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers, and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. **read ›**

161 **Luke 14:27** Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple. **read ›**

162 **Luke 14:33** So therefore, any of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. **read ›**

163 **Luke 18:22** When Jesus heard these things, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor. Then you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” **read ›**

164 **Luke 18:28** Peter said, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” **read ›**

165 **Acts 2:44** All who believed were together, and had all things in common. **read ›**

166 **Acts 2:45** They sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as anyone had need. **read ›**

167 **Acts 4:32** The multitude of those who believed were of one heart and soul. No one said that any of his possessions was his own, but they had all things in common. **read ›**

168 **Acts 4:34** For neither was there among them any who lacked, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, **read ›**

169 **Acts 4:35** and laid them at the apostles’ feet. They were distributed to each as anyone had need. **read ›**

170 **Acts 4:37** having a field, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet. **read ›**

171 **Romans 7:2** For the woman that has a husband is bound by law to the husband while he lives, but if the husband dies, she is discharged from the law of the husband. **read ›**

172 **Romans 10:5** For Moses writes of the righteousness that is from the law, “The man who does them shall live in them.” **read ›**

173 **Romans 12:14** Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse. **read ›**

174 **1 Corinthians 1:6** just as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, **read ›**

175 **2 Corinthians 4:15** For all things are for your sakes, that the grace, being multiplied through the many, may cause the thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God. **read ›**

176 **2 Corinthians 6:17** Therefore, “Go out from the midst of them and be separate,” says the Lord, “and touch nothing unclean; and I will receive you, **read ›**

177 **2 Corinthians 10:6** and being in readiness to avenge all disobedience when your obedience is made full. **read ›**

178 **Hebrews 5:9** Having been made perfect, he became to all of those who obey him the author of eternal salvation, **read ›**

179 **Hebrews 11:9** By faithfulness he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a land not his own, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise. **read ›**

180 **Hebrews 13:14** For we do not have here an enduring city, but we seek that which is to come. **read ›**

181 **Hebrews 13:21** make you complete in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. **read ›**

182 **James 1:25** But he who looks into the perfect law of freedom and continues, not being a hearer who forgets but a doer of the work, this man will be blessed in what he does. **read ›**

183 **James 2:22** Do you see that faithfulness was working with his works, and by works faithfulness was made perfect? **read ›**

184 **1 Peter 1:15** but just as he who called you is holy, you yourselves also be holy in all of your behavior, **read ›**

185 **1 Peter 1:16** because it is written: Be holy, for I am holy. **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

186 **1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. **read ›**

187 **1 Peter 2:11** Beloved, I beg you as foreigners and pilgrims to abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul. **read ›**

188 **1 Peter 3:9** not repaying evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but instead blessing, knowing that you were called to this so that you might inherit a blessing. **read ›**

189 **1 John 2:5** But whoever keeps his word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in him: **read ›**

190 **Revelation 2:19** I know your works, your love, faithfulness, service, and endurance, and that your latter works are more than the first. **read ›**

191 **Revelation 14:12** Here is the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and faithfulness to Jesus." **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *174 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 6:1 · 9:5 · 22:17

Exodus 21:24

Leviticus 25:23

Deuteronomy 30:15

Psalms 4:4 · 33:9

Proverbs 2:16 · 8:13 · 9:10 · 11:25 · 19:17 · 31:8

Ecclesiastes 12:13

Isaiah 10:23 · 45:1

Jeremiah 21:8

Lamentations 3:27

Zechariah 7:10

Matthew 4:3 · 4:10 · 5:3 · 5:11 · 5:17 · 5:22 · 5:25 · 5:26 · 5:31 · 5:40 · 5:41 · 5:42 · 5:45 · 5:46 · 6:1 · 6:19 · 6:20 · 6:25 · 7:1 · 7:2 · 7:8 · 7:12 · 9:13 · 10:28 · 10:32 · 10:33 · 12:36 · 13:44 · 16:26 · 18:23 · 19:3 · 19:12 · 19:21 · 21:43 · 22:37 · 22:39 · 23:6 · 25:25 · 25:34 · 25:35 · 27:5 · 27:32

Mark 2:11 · 7:15 · 12:30 · 12:32 · 12:39 · 14:8 · 15:21

Luke 6:1 · 6:20 · 6:22 · 6:30 · 6:31 · 6:32 · 6:36 · 6:37 · 6:38 · 10:30 · 11:1 · 11:43 · 12:21 · 12:23 · 16:1 · 16:9 · 16:16 · 16:18 · 17:7 · 19:15 · 20:46 · 22:8 · 23:26

John 1:17 · 4:18 · 8:26 · 8:31 · 11:25 · 12:6 · 14:15 · 17:11 · 19:17

Acts 1:18 · 7:60 · 10:14 · 17:31

Romans 2:21 · 2:28 · 3:2 · 3:13 · 4:1 · 4:2 · 4:3 · 6:14 · 8:11 · 8:19 · 8:24 · 8:38 · 9:28 · 10:10 · 12:10 · 12:13 · 12:19 · 13:14

1 Corinthians 1:10 · 2:8 · 5:13 · 6:14 · 7:10 · 7:25 · 8:6 · 13:4 · 15:46

2 Corinthians 3:6 · 3:7 · 4:14 · 5:1 · 6:5 · 11:27

Galatians 1:1 · 1:8 · 2:18 · 3:6 · 3:13 · 3:16 · 6:2

Ephesians 4:3 · 4:26 · 6:14

Philippians 2:2 · 2:10 · 3:14 · 3:16 · 3:20

1 Thessalonians 5:13

1 Timothy 2:2 · 5:10 · 6:10

Hebrews 10:30 · 10:33 · 11:13 · 12:22 · 13:2 · 13:17 · 13:20

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

James 1:27 · 5:4 · 5:19
1 Peter 1:13 · 1:21 · 3:13 · 3:22
2 Peter 3:16
1 John 4:18
Revelation 3:11

Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What does it mean to be a radical Christian?” on May 18, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

Library only. This study was written only from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed above, with a link to read it.

How it was made. Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.

How to cite this study. The Historic Faith, “What does it mean to be a radical Christian?” Early Church Questions, published November 9, 2026, https://thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-does-it-mean-to-be-a-radical-christian. To cite one quotation, add its number and source, for example “quote 1, source 30.”

© 2026 The Historic Faith. Selection, arrangement and editing by THF; machine-compiled text and public-domain quotations are not claimed. For personal study; please don’t republish.

THEHISTORICFAITH.COM

THE END OF THIS STUDY