

# GOD'S RADICAL PEOPLE

## Week 5

These weekly studies are loosely based on the previous Sunday's sermon. If you missed it, you will find a recording on our website ([www.knaphillbaptist.org.uk](http://www.knaphillbaptist.org.uk)). They are designed for both Home Group discussion and/or personal reflection. Don't necessarily try to cover all the questions and discussion topics in your group at one sitting. You may like to think about them later in your own time.



## LIVING

**Read Acts 2:44; 4:32-37**

This is the fifth in our series of studies for the autumn entitled *God's Radical People* from Acts 2:37-47. God wants us to be a Radical People - getting to root of things... and our roots lie in the New Testament Church! It is here that we see the principles by which we learn what sort of church God wants us to be. Another remarkable feature of the New Testament Church was their Community Living. Historically this 'experiment' in a free and voluntary 'communism out of love' may not have lasted very long but this may have been due to spiritual decline rather than it being an unworkable idea. Whatever the reason, there remain important principles that are relevant and appropriate for us as we seek to be an authentic, Christ-centred Christian community.

### Questions and pointers for discussion/reflection

1. Philip Yancey wrote about a woman who was in a mess. It was suggested she might go to church. 'Why' she said, 'they will only make me feel worse.' Have you ever felt worse by going to church? How can we help people feel welcome and accepted?
2. Read and reflect on Matthew 7:1-5 and Luke 6:27-31, 37,38. Our attitude to other people matters in the kingdom of God. We can be affected ourselves by our wrong attitude to others. How do you feel about this? If there any change to your attitudes to, or behaviour towards, others that you need to make?
3. What binds us together as Christians is being 'in Christ'. It is one of the Apostle Paul's favourite expressions. What does it mean? Is it possible to be 'in the church' and yet not be 'in Christ'?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 12:13. It is the Holy Spirit who 'baptises' us into Christ. This is the most important baptism because without it we do not belong to Jesus (see Romans 8:9). The sacrament of water baptism should follow this quickly as it graphically depicts our union with Christ. Have you been baptised? What do you think stops people from being baptised with water even when they know that they are have been spiritually baptised and made regenerate by the Spirit and so are Christians?
5. In John 17:11 Jesus prayed that his disciples may be one as he is one with the Father. The disciples of the NT church were 'one in heart and mind' (Acts 4:32). Yet churches can become divided, factions develop and splits occur (1 Corinthians 1:10-17). What is the cause of this kind of division? Is it inevitable in church life? Is it always wrong that people either leave a church or a church splits? Do you have any experience of this? How did/does it make you feel? How can such things be avoided?
6. 'In things essential, unity. I things doubtful, liberty. In all things, charity' (Richard Baxter 1615-1691). Discuss.
7. Read John 13:35. The love shared between Christians is a powerful witness. It is not by human effort but is a creation of the Holy Spirit (see Romans 5:5). The church is not a club of like- minded people but a spiritual fellowship, the body of Christ with Jesus as the head. Do we sometimes forget this? Discuss.

These verses in Acts encourage us to hold our worldly goods loosely. Can we have an unhealthy possessiveness to material wealth? How do you feel about sharing your possessions?