

Deconstruction, Orthodoxy, & Reformation

Part 2: On This Rock He Built His Church

(preached 7/30/23)

Please turn to

LAST WEEK:

- Deconstruction seeks to dismantle and demolish something down to its very foundation and start completely over.
- Reformation keeps the foundation and structure, but makes repairs & improvements.
- Deconstruction is necessary *when the foundation & structure are completely out of line with the Bible* per examples already given: atheism, UFO cult, communism.
- Deconstruction is *dangerous when it goes after Biblical Orthodoxy* which we're covering today.
- Reformation is necessary when *the foundation and structure are good*, but the building needs repairs and improvements.
- Reformation is dangerous *when the foundation & structure are false*. Ex: don't try and combine Jesus with the ancient alien theory because next thing you know, you have ET Jesus coming back.
- **BO is belief and adherence to the foundational teachings of Christ, the Apostles, and the Prophets.**
- The devil is deceiving people—both in and out of church—by inspiring them to deconstruct BO.
- Self-proclaimed Christians including pastors and worship leaders are leaving the Christian faith because they chose deconstruction—to take a wrecking ball to BO.
- They redefine who Jesus is and what the Bible says, and then do exactly what Paul prophesied to Timothy: listening to seducing spirits and teaching the doctrine of demons.
- Paul goes on to say that doing so leads to a seared conscience where a person cannot distinguish between good and evil and will actually call evil things good.
- We see this at work not just in the world, but even with the so-called “progressive” churches who preach that what God calls sin is not only right, but affirmed and approved by God.
- People who leave the faith will sometimes claim to still “love Jesus” but reject Biblical doctrine, which is deception.

TODAY you and I will be more fully grounded in Christ, His teachings, and the Church. Let's start out with questions I would like you to answer out loud please:

- Do you believe in the Trinity: God the Father, the Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit?
- Do you believe that God created everything: the heavens, the earth, humanity, etc.?
- Do you believe that Jesus was and is God, Who came in a human body?
- Do you believe He lived a sinless life?

- That He went to the Cross and—because He was God—was able to shed His blood for the sins of the world?
- Do you believe He was raised from the death 3 days later and is still alive, even today?
- Do you believe He ascended to Heaven and now sits on a throne at the right hand of Father God?
- Do you believe He’s coming back to earth someday, and bringing His Kingdom with Him?
- Do you believe that someday we will also be resurrected from the dead?
- Do you believe Jesus is the only path to God the Father in Heaven and humanities only Salvation?
- Do you believe that the Bible is God’s Word?
- That it doesn’t need to be changed or updated in any way?

CONGRATULATIONS! If you said “yes” to these things, you’re an Orthodox Christian.

Over the millennia the Devil has worked overtime to deconstruct all of the above

and you and I have already been subjected to his doctrine since we were kids. Satan and has done his best to take a wrecking ball to everything Jesus built and established. Here are just a few examples:

- Darwin’s Evolution has replaced God’s Creation, claiming it all came about randomly and that we’re descended from apes.
- Jesus’ deity and sinless life has been brought to earth: some say He was just a nice guy who founded a religion, or a prophet, or what have you. They’ve taken away His Godhood and made Him flawed just like the rest of us.
- The Resurrection has been challenged since day 1. There are “Christians” who believe most everything about Christ with exception to His resurrection.
- Nowadays its hip to say there are many ways to God, righteousness, and Heaven and that it’s too narrow minded to believe it can only happen through Jesus.
- The authority of the Bible has been challenged where some say its merely another book written by man, while others say its “flowing and interpretive” which means we can form it into whatever image we desire.

SUMMATION OF BO:

- **BO is belief and adherence to the foundational teachings of Christ, the Apostles, and the Prophets.**
- **OUR FOUNDATION IS JESUS HIMSELF, THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE AND ROCK**
- **The structure Jesus built upon Himself was the Church.**

- *The Apostles and Prophets then built further upon the Church through mass conversions and the epistles of the New Testament.*

THESE THINGS DON'T NEED DECONSTRUCTION, nor do they need updating or some “fresh” interpretation that no one has ever seen before. Just as Hebrews states that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow: so is the Church and the Bible.

We may use different tools than they did in the 1st century:

nowadays we have cell phones, social media, mics & amps, the Internet, YouTube, Power Point, projectors, etc. We have tech they didn't have for sure and I'm happy to use it! We may update our parables & language to examples 21st century people can relate to—I mean very few know what a “husbandman” is anymore but they certain know what a caretaker is.

But the doctrine Christ, the Apostles, and Prophets taught remains the same even if we present it with tech or use modern day parables. The Church and its commission also remains the same.

First: **Christ and His Church are compared to a building**—specifically the Temple that was present in the days of Jesus and His Apostles. This was a major revelation shared by Peter and the boys to their fellow Jewish converts. All builders know that the foundation is laid down first and, in the 1st century, buildings started out with what they called the Cornerstone. If said building was square or rectangular there would be 4 cornerstones, therefore the first one of those laid down was referred to as the CHIEF Cornerstone.

All the other stones in the building—including the other cornerstones—were replicas of the CC. They were made in its image/likeness.

Jesus is the Chief Cornerstone of the spiritual building called the Church.

[Isa 28:16 ESV] 16 therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes will not be in haste.'

[Mat 16:18 ESV] 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Peter means “little stone” and Jesus was prophesying that Peter would be 1) remade in Christ's image and 2) he would be one of the foundational stones of the church.

[Act 4:11 ESV] 11 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.

[1Pe 2:6 ESV] 6 For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

Every other “stone” laid down in the first century continued to be the foundation of the Church and these stones were the Apostles and Prophets:

[Eph 2:19-22 ESV] 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Here's what we have:

- Christ was the first and Chief Cornerstone.
- The Apostles & Prophets are the rest of the foundation, including the other cornerstones.
- You and I are the “stones” laid on top of this foundation.
- The PURPOSE of this building called the Church is revealed in verse 22: ***to house God the Holy Spirit.***

All “stones” made after Jesus are made in His exact likeness just as it was back then when builders constructed the Temple. According to Generationword.com, the Chief Cornerstone of Herod’s Temple (the one that stood in Jesus’ day) was 33 feet long, 7 feet wide, 3 feet tall, and weighed 50 tons.

- The other 3 cornerstones would have been an exact replica.
- The other foundation stones laid between the cornerstones would have been an exact replica in smaller dimensions.
- The stones laid on top of the foundation would have been replicas of the CC on an even smaller scale.
- The ancient builders understood that making all the stones in the image of the CC made for a secure and sturdy building.

All those in Christ are made in His image:

[Rom 8:29 ESV] 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Look at it this way: **before we knew Christ, we were just rocks**. When we got Saved, Jesus quarried and shaped our dimensions to be a smaller version of Himself that he could then fit into His building called the Church.

THEREFORE WHEN THE 1ST CENTURY APOSTLES AND PROPHETS WENT FORTH AND PREACHED THE GOSPEL, THEY WERE CONTINUING JESUS' WORK: BUILDING THE CHURCH:

[1Co 3:9-11 ESV] 9 For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, **God's building**. 10 According to the grace of God given to me, like a **skilled master builder I laid a foundation**, and **someone else is building upon it**. Let each one take care **how he builds upon** it. 11 **For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**

SUMMATION:

- Jesus came here 2000 years ago and started the biggest building project this world has ever seen: the Church.
- He Himself was and is the Chief Cornerstone of the Church.
- The 1st century Apostles & Prophets comprised the rest of the foundation.
- All Christians who came after, including you and I, are stones in the building/structure which lies on the foundation.
- We continue to build the church ever higher, wider, and greater by sharing the Gospel and making converts.
- The purpose of the Church is to be a home for God the Holy Spirit.

Jesus and His Church are one.

It's impossible to love Jesus and hate the Church. A Christian who has separated themselves from the church hates it. They've chosen to deconstruct the Church, take a wrecking ball to it, and claim they don't need it. Or that it's too corrupt, destructive, or some other adjective.

Jesus & His Church cannot be separated. Whenever a Christian says they love Christ but won't become part of a local Christian fellowship, they're attempting to be stones that are just lying on the ground instead of being part of the spiritual building Jesus and the Apostles referred to in the Bible.

It's only the Devil who seeks to demolish the Church. He tries to separate Jesus from His Body and does so in many ways. One of those ways is to convince bitter and angry Christians to see God's Church as a corrupted prostitute when Christ calls her His glorious Bride.

My head isn't in the sand here. **The Church most certainly needs some repairs—reformation.** That was the case in the first century just as it is in the 21st century. All one need do is read through the epistles where occasionally Paul gives a correction and rebuke to some of the churches back then. He goes after the Church at Corinth and Galatia

pretty hard, to the point where he tells the Corinthians that if they don't take care of a particular internal matter, he's going to arrive himself and "bring the rod." In Revelation chapters 2 and 3, John relays a message from Jesus Himself Who points out some repairs that need to be made in some of the individual churches there.

We've made mistakes in the last 2000 years and some of them were really bad! Individual churches & pastors have fallen so far as to have "their lampstands taken away" (closed their doors forever) and rightfully so.

Yet we don't declare "the whole thing to be a lie" and take a wrecking ball to it.

- If your former pastor committed adultery that doesn't mean that what Jesus built is a lie, it only means your ex-pastor was disobedient.
- If your church-going Bible thumping parents divorced, that doesn't mean Biblical teachings "don't work" it only means your parents didn't live them.
- If the church you grew up in was legalistic and under emphasized His gentle mercy and grace, don't rush over to a church that falsely claims God affirms and approves what He clearly calls sin in the Bible.

Let's not allow the devil to convince us to deconstruct Jesus, His Church, or His Word—the Bible.

[Mat 7:24-27 ESV] 24 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who **built his house on the rock.** 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, **but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.** 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who **built his house on the sand.** 27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, **and it fell, and great was the fall of it.**"

Good news is Jesus is the Rock, then the Apostles & Prophets and all their teachings. Our foundation is sure! No spiritual storm or earthquake can destroy it! Verses 26-27 show what happens to Christians who decide to take a wrecking ball to it—they fall away from the faith.

[Psa 40:2 ESV] 2 He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, **and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**