

Deconstruction, Orthodoxy, & Reformation

Part 1: Sorting Through It All

(preached 7/23/23)

Please turn to *1 Timothy 4:1*.

The world is more confused now than at any other time in my lifespan. The confusion I'm referring to isn't just indecision or ignorance, but a denial and abandonment of truths on a deep spiritual level that I've never seen before.

Hans Christian Anderson wrote a cautionary tale back in the 19th century titled **"The Emperor's New Clothes."** In said story, a vain king is fooled by some seamsters who tell him that have a new fabric that's invisible to all but the worthy and smart. Even though the king himself can't see the fabric, he pretends to put it on and take a ride downtown to see if his subjects will see it. Everyone pretends to see it, shouting "look at the Emperor's New Clothes!" A child, not knowing what's going on, tells the truth and shouts that the Emperor is naked.

Last week we talked about the **Gift of Discerning of Spirits** where the Lord grants us the ability to see/hear which spirit is behind a person, organization, political party, celebrity, church, or preacher. We saw that a combination of asking for this gift and knowledge of the Bible helps proof us against deception and paranoia. We ended the sermon by asking God to give us this gift so let me ask you this: **which SPIRIT is behind confusion?**

IMMORAL CONFUSION. I'm not talking confusion over Quantum Entanglement—one of the newer theories in science that baffles my Christmas Tree Farmer brain. I'm referring to confusion over which gender someone is, if there are any genders, and over what's right and wrong. Said confusion has gotten so bad that child trafficking is growing exponentially with the US as the #1 customer, and our government is now openly calling for children to have gender reassignment surgery & therapy.

All of humanity has a **GOD-CONSCIENCE** where the Lord wrote His moral commandments upon, enabling us to tell good from evil. Yet the Apostle Paul gave us a sign of the last days before the return of Jesus:

[1Ti 4:1-2 ESV] 1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, 2 through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared,

In other words, the more a person goes with the delusion that the Emperor has on a new set of clothes which just happens to be invisible, *the more they purposely suppress their God-given conscience.*

The more they suppress their conscience, the less able they are to tell good from evil.

When I was in my 20's "20 years ago" was a long time. Now that I'm in my 50's, not so much.

20 years ago:

- Most everyone knew there were only 2 genders.
- Most everyone would have openly scoffed at the concept of "non-binary"—which is to say a person has no gender.
- Most everyone would have rejected being "gender fluid"—that you can go from one gender to another at will.
- Most would have been appalled & disgusted at the concept of child trafficking.
- Most would have been repulsed by the idea of the government and parents subjecting their kids to gender reassignment surgery & therapy.

CALLING GOOD EVIL. Yet here in the 2020's all this is growing in acceptance and those who do so are actually accusing anyone who knows it's wrong of being racists, haters, bigots, immoral and even "science deniers." A few years ago, Bill Nye "the Science Guy" got up on stage and did a slick presentation with state of the art graphics claiming there was more than just male and female. Truly America has reached the point prophesied by Isaiah where we're calling evil good, and good evil.

I ask you again: what spirit is behind this confusion & DELUSION?

What spirit is seducing people with its teachings to the point where they're stomping on the God-given moral compass the Lord gave to all of humanity?

- Jesus didn't just call Satan a liar, but the father of lies. (John 8:44)
- Paul told the Ephesians that the Devil rules the world and works deception through human beings in disobedience to God. (Ephesians 2:2)
- Paul told the Corinthians that Satan has blinded the minds of unbelievers. (2 Cor 4:4)
- Paul also told the Corinthians that God isn't the Spirit behind confusion (1 Cor

Within the Church, one the most rampant forms of said confusion & deception is called Deconstruction.

It's not a new idea at all and this label was created in the 1960's. Defined it means this: ***an approach (usually targeting literature) that challenges and casts down traditional meanings and interpretations.***

The result of Deconstruction is almost always the same: a person, group, society, etc. can then reshape and reinterpret a piece of literature into whatever meaning they want, also called relativism. Entire movements have used this approach against the Bible and the Constitution, but the Bible is the #1 target of Satan.

Let's not throw out the baby with the bathwater:

there ARE times when Deconstruction is necessary. Examples:

- You're brought up in an atheistic home where you parents said there was no God. By all means, deconstruct their teachings and have the revelation that the Lord is real.
- You were brought up in a UFO cult that taught we're all the product of ancient aliens who inserted their DNA into apes, and created humanity. I would only hope you would demolish these beliefs and renounce them.
- You were raised in a communist nation where you were taught that government is your god and that you must work, sacrifice, and worship it. I can only pray you would bring a wrecking ball to this upbringing and cast it aside.

Deconstruction is a wrecking ball meant to completely dismantle and demolish something—including and especially the foundation—and start over. It certainly applies to all the situations above and more.

Reformation is different: instead of demolishing everything, we keep the foundation and general structure...but make certain changes, repairs, and improvements. Examples:

- You're brought up in a legalistic church that over-emphasized sin, God's commands, and God's wrath.
- Not only did you often feel ashamed & condemned, but you viewed God as angry and ready to punish you.

Some Christians experience this and conclude the whole thing needs to be demolished. No it doesn't! Too many end up falling away from the faith into unbelief, or migrating to a progressive church which embraces deceptive confusion. Just yesterday, AFTER I had written this sermon, I just heard of another long time pastor who fell away from the faith and has declared himself as an agnostic! Why? Long story short: he didn't like what God had to say about certain subjects, so he decided he needed to deconstruct the entire thing.

NOT JUST ABOUT HIM. Consider: this man pastored a church for years and it's just about him and his personal walk—it's about the people whom he was supposed to be a "shepherd" to. I can only imagine what they're going through now that this man is one of the people Paul was telling Tim about—fallen away from the faith into apostasy.

If you were brought up in a Bible-believing Church that was too legalistic, then Reformation is needed, not deconstruction.

POINT OUT WHAT'S RIGHT. As an adult point out the things your childhood church got wrong, but also what they got right. They did view the Bible as God's Word, they did say that Jesus was the only way, and they strove to live holy lives.

In your personal reformation you can place greater emphasis on God's love, grace, and mercy than they did. You can do so without compromising what God calls good or evil. You can do so without embracing the modern-day morals of the world. You can do so and not fall into hyper grace or hyper love.

Example #2: your parents were church-going Christians who touted their faith publicly. They were heavily involved, taught Sunday School, quoted the Bible, and more. Yet behind the scenes they fought terribly with each other, drank too much booze, were verbally abusive, and eventually divorced.

Deconstruction would tell you that Christianity and the Church were a complete lie and need to be dismantled down to the very foundation.

Reformation would tell you that your parents were disobedient to God and His ways and would **inspire you to cry out to God for yourself to do better.**

- That instead of relying upon drinking to calm your nerves, to look to communion with the Holy Spirit.
- Instead of fighting with your spouse all the time, to do some serious self-examination with the help of the HS, to see how you're toxifying your marriage...and to repent.

Summary so far:

- 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.

For a Christian:

- Deconstruction is necessary *when the foundation & structure in completely out of line with the Bible* per the examples already given: atheism, UFO cult, communism.
- Deconstruction is *dangerous when it goes after Biblical Orthodoxy* which we'll cover next week.
- Reformation is necessary when *the foundation and structure are good*, but the building needs repairs and improvements.
- Your church was too legalistic and your parents were hypocrites: but Christianity, the Bible, and the Church were built by Christ Himself and don't need demolishing.
- Reform your beliefs to include grace and mercy. Do better than your parents by calling upon the Lord more than they did.
- Reformation is useless *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.

We'll talk more about Biblical Orthodoxy next week, but let me do a quick summary here:

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.

Again: we'll go into this next week.

For today's message, **the devil is inspiring people to deconstruct Biblical Orthodoxy** to fulfill the prophecy Paul spoke to Timothy, the same one I read to you a few moments ago.

Demonic teaching is seductive.

- The problem with something seductive is that it's attractive and appealing.
- I used to read Greek Mythology and was always fascinated by two mythical creatures: the Mermaid and the Siren.

MERMAIDS weren't pleasant beings like in the Tom Hanks movie, but their purpose was to lure male sailors to jump overboard where they were drag them down to the watery depths to drown. They were beautiful women from the waist up, but were fish from the waist down. When they would appear in the water, they would only show their top halves. If they'd shown the whole thing, no sailor would have jumped in the water!

SIRENS barely resembled women! They were ghastly ugly creatures with the legs of a predatory bird, large mishappen wings, and the body that was also birdish. How gross! How did they lure sailors to their deaths, then? Their voices were seductive and sailors would end up dashing their ships into rocks just to see the source of such a beautiful sound. Again: if the sirens had displayed what they looked like first before they sand, no sailor would have been seduced.

The same applies to the teachings/doctrines of demons. If they were exposed for what they really are—ugly abominations—a lot less people would embrace them.

Let's look at the verses again, this time I'll read King James:

[1Ti 4:1-2 KJV] 1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

TRANSLATION. The word “seducing” translates to deceitful, imposter, and corrupter. It goes on to point to a spirit which is a wandering vagabond like Cain the murderer.

Remember last week's sermon? The Gift of Discerning of Spirits is exactly what it says: the supernatural ability to judge the spirit who is SPEAKING behind a person, organization, ministry, political party, scientist, celebrity, etc.

What is Paul warning Tim against in verse 1? Seducing SPIRITS. Please notice he didn't say seducing pastors, prophets, or politicians. He points Tim to the source who are the spirits behind people who talk and teach.

The spirits are seductive because their doctrine/teaching seems beautiful...like look at a mermaid floating in the water from the waist up, smiling and reaching out with her arms.

I'll give a **real life example.** There's someone I've been following on Twitter and it's no one local and you don't know them. She openly identifies herself as bisexual Christian and confesses she was raised in (her words) a hyper-fundamentalist church. She testifies that her church was legalistic, lacked in love and mercy, and openly condemned the LGBT lifestyle. She

said that hearing this preaching chipped away at her for years and she believed God hated her...so she finally left.

She was immediately seduced by a pro-LGBT churches who preached doctrine which approves and embraces her lifestyle. She tweeted that this was the first time she went to a church where she was loved and accepted and that she wept the entire time with joy. They convinced her that God also approves and embraces her lifestyle, that He made her that way, and she is now in the process of deconstructing everything her former church told her.

TRUE? If this lady's testimony is true, then her former hyper-fundamentalist church failed to show her God's transformational love. Maybe it made the same mistake some churches have: it believed and taught that God's anger is what transforms people and inspires them to repent.

COMPASSION. If her testimony is accurate, I feel badly that she was not shown that God does love everyone, both saint and sinner alike. I regret that this lady never experienced the love of her Heavenly Father, but though He hated her. ***The truth is the Lord's love***

TRANSFORMS us and never affirms anything the Lord has called sin.

God's love caused the Apostle Paul to turn from persecuting and murdering Christians, to becoming one of them and becoming an effective evangelist who expanded the church greatly.

DECEIVED. That being said and despite the failure of her childhood church, this lady has been deceived by seducing spirits who are imposters in her adulthood. They pretend to represent God and the Truth, when in fact they come straight from the devil. My prayer for her is that she will see the whole of it: ***the bottom half of the mermaid and what the siren really looks like vs how it sounds.***

- Her childhood church needs some serious reformation.
- Her current church needs a wrecking ball.

Seducing spirits teach demonic doctrine, which are lies, and the result is this:

having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

THE CONSCIENCE BECOMES SEARED. Getting branded with a hot iron hurts terribly at first, but after it scars over the scarred tissue becomes numb and has no feeling. The nerves are shot. I remember watching an episode of "ER" years ago of a man who lost feeling in his arm and one day it caught on fire, and he didn't know it. He quickly put it out, but some damage was done.

When the conscience is working the right way, it's supposed to speak up whenever we do something wrong or are about to. Our conscience tells us that the white lie were about to speak is wrong, that we shouldn't cheat on our taxes, and that we shouldn't drive after we've drank alcohol.

God wrote His moral laws and commands onto our conscience which is the only reason we know that stealing and lying are wrong and that we ought to honor our parents.

Now imagine if our conscience were to shut down. If something were to happen to it so that it wasn't working as often as it used to, or perhaps not at all. Think about: nothing would stop us from doing anything we wanted....

What causes a conscience to become like this? Paul told Timothy in the verses we just read: seducing spirits preaching demonic doctrine which inspires some to deconstruct Biblical Orthodoxy and adapt something else.

As we get older in Christ, we should be changing...going from "glory to glory" as Paul said.
Reformation in our beliefs and lifestyles should always be happening.

But our foundation and structure are sure and let's not allow seducing spirits to convince us otherwise!

- We have been grounded in Christ and His Church.
- We've been given the written Word of God, the Bible.
- We have each other for encouragement and accountability.
- We have God's Spirit speaking to us.
- We have a God-given conscience which serves an amazing role.