

## Another Gospel Series

2.8.23

### Sources:

Christian Standard Bible (CSB)  
“Another Gospel” by Alisa Childers  
“A Grand Illusion” by David Young  
[gotquestions.org](http://gotquestions.org)

II Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, will multiply teachers for themselves because they have an itch to hear what they want to hear.<sup>4</sup> They will turn away from hearing the truth and will turn aside to myths.

II Peter 2:1 There were indeed false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, and will bring swift destruction on themselves.

Jude 1:4 For some people, who were designated for this judgment long ago,<sup>a</sup> have come in by stealth; they are ungodly, turning the grace of our God into sensuality and denying Jesus Christ, our only Master and Lord,

8 In the same way these people—relying on their dreams—defile their flesh, reject authority, and slander glorious ones.

I. A few terms.

A. Progressive Christianity

1. Progressive Christianity defined.

“Progressive Christianity is a recent movement in Protestantism that focuses strongly on social justice and environmentalism and often includes a revisionist (or non-traditional) view of the Scriptures.” [gotquestions.org](http://gotquestions.org)

2. Progressive Christianity by characteristics.

Liberal Theologian, Scotty McLennan says,

“The Bible is meant to be read largely metaphorically and allegorically, rather than literally.

Science and religion are compatible. We are committed to the use of logic, reason, and the scientific method.

Love is a primary Christian value, and it is directly related to the promotion of liberty and justice in society at large.

There are many roads to the top of the spiritual mountain, and Christianity is only one of them.

We see Jesus primarily as a spiritual and ethical teacher and less as being identical with God.

Living a fulfilled and ethical life here and now is more important than speculating on what happens to us after we die.

Women and men must play an equal role in religious leadership.

And in terms of current American hot-button issues, we tend to be prochoice on abortion and in favor of marriage for same sex couples.”

#### B. Deconstruction

“The process of systematically dissecting and often rejecting the beliefs you grew up with” Alisa Childers

### II. What did the earliest Christians believe?

I Corinthians 15:3-5 For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,<sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,<sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve.

- They believed that Jesus died for their sins
- They believed that he was buried and raised from the dead
- They believed that Jesus' atoning death, burial, and resurrection were inseparable from the scriptures.
- They believed that the core belief in the resurrection could be verified by evidence

### III. What is leading to so many believers deconstructing?

A. Trevin Wax

1. Cultural chaos
2. Church confusion
3. Christian complacency

B. Alisa Childers

1. The abuse of power in churches

**1 Peter 5:1-2** I exhort the elders among you as a fellow elder and witness to the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory about to be revealed: <sup>2</sup> Shepherd God's flock among you, not overseeing<sup>[a]</sup> out of compulsion but willingly, as God would have you;<sup>[b]</sup> not out of greed for money but eagerly;

2. No safe place to doubt

**Acts 17:11** The people here were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, since they received the word with eagerness and examined<sup>[a]</sup> the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

3. The moral demands of historic Christianity

Mark 8:34 Calling the crowd along with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.

4. Questioning the reliability of the Bible

**2 Peter 1:21** because no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

5. The growing rise of critical theory

Galatians 3:28 There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; since you are all one in Christ Jesus.

6. The rise of hyper fundamentalism/legalism

Galatians 1:6 I am amazed that you are so quickly turning away from him who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different

gospel—<sup>7</sup> not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are troubling you and want to distort the gospel of Christ

7. Suffering: If God exist why does He allow suffering?

John 16:33 I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world."

8. Growing up in a Christian bubble.

C. David Young

"Why is this shift happening among evangelicals? The simple answer is that evangelicals who once sought a biblical version of the Christian faith are now being lured into a form of Christianity that accommodates American secular values."

IV. The core beliefs of progressive Christians

## ***The Core Values of Progressive Christianity***

**By calling ourselves progressive Christians,  
we mean that we are Christians who...**

**1.**

**Believe that following the way and teachings of Jesus  
can lead to experiencing sacredness, wholeness, and  
unity of all life, even as we recognize that the Spirit  
moves in beneficial ways in many faith traditions.**

**2.**

**Seek community that is inclusive of all people,  
honoring differences in theological perspective, age,  
race, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression,  
class, or ability.**

**3.**

**Strive for peace and justice among all people, knowing  
that behaving with compassion and selfless love towards  
one another is the fullest expression of what we believe.**

**4.**

**Embrace the insights of contemporary science and  
strive to protect the Earth and ensure its integrity  
and sustainability.**

**5.**

**Commit to a path of life-long learning, believing there  
is more value in questioning than in absolutes.**



**"Core Values of Progressive Christianity"  
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V. The signs and problems with progressive Christianity

**Signs Your Church Might be Heading Toward Progressive Christianity by Alisa Childers**

1. A lower view of the Bible
2. Feelings over facts – A person's feelings become the ultimate authority and practice.
3. Essential Christian doctrines open for reinterpretation – John Pavlovitz said,
4. Historic terms are inaccurately redefined.
5. The heart of the gospel message shifts from sin and redemption to social justice.

Close:

“Progressivism is the last step one takes before leaving the Christian faith altogether. Think of it as a “gateway drug.”” David Young