

DECONSTRUCTING DECONSTRUCTION

Sermon Points

Week 3 - 8.28.22 | Tyler Wilson

Title: What is Truth?

Scripture: Matthew 7:24-27

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Main Point: In an age of relativism where certainty is a sin, doubt is a destination, and tolerance rules, Jesus provides the stable foundation of absolute Truth we need, long for, and deep-down know exists.

Postmodern - There is no absolute truth.

Relativism - Truth is relative to a person or community: what's true for you is true for you

Pluralism - All truth claims are equally valid. This belief and that belief can co-exist.

Skepticism - We can't really know truth at all.

Common Complaints - Absolute Truth is:

- 1 - Narrow-Minded
- 2 - Arrogant
- 3 - Exclusive
- 4 - Offensive
- 5 - Excessive
- 6 - Restraining

Progressive Christianity Hallmark #1 - **Certainty is a sin**

- Bible verses showing that you *can* have certainty:
 - Rom. 8:38-39
 - Eph. 5:5-6
 - Philippians 1:6
 - Luke 1:4
 - Acts 2:36

Progressive Christianity Hallmark #2 - **Doubt is the new goal, not faith.**

"At some point it finally hit me: the questions mattered more than the answers. It didn't really seem like anyone was interested in researching facts or reaching conclusions. They seemed way more excited about landing on the next question - and the more controversial, the better."

- Alisa Childers

“Inviting questions is more valuable than supplying answers.” - Richard Rohr

While having a “journey of faith” may sometimes be a good thing, it’s important to actually arrive somewhere. As GK Chesterton puts it, *“Merely having an open mind is nothing. I am incurably convinced that the point of opening the mind, like opening the mouth, is to shut it again on something solid.”*

There are those who are: [2Ti 3:7 ESV] (7) “always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.”

Progressive Christianity Hallmark #3 - **What is your AUTHORITY?**

Progressive Christians seem to balk at the idea of seeing scripture as an authority by which truth can be found:

“The church will continue to be even more irrelevant when it quotes letters from 2,000 years ago as its best defense.” - Rob Bell

“Man’s best attempts to understand God in their time and day... We as humans have evolved beyond to a higher and wiser view of God” - Brian McLaren

Common Objections to Christian Orthodoxy/Belief in Absolute Truth:

1. You can’t use the Bible to claim the Bible is inspired - that’s circular reasoning!
 - a. Something that is the highest authority can only make appeals to itself
2. There are clearly errors and inconsistencies in The Bible
 - a. All eyewitness accounts have inconsistent details
 - i. *“Every case I handle is like this; witnesses seldom agree on every detail because of their perspective of what happened. In fact, when 2 people agree completely on every detail of their account, I am inclined to believe that they have either contaminated each other's observations or are working together to pull the wool over my eyes. I expect truthful, reliable eyewitnesses to disagree on details along the way.” - J. Warner Wallace*
3. That’s just your interpretation, this is what it means to me.
 - a. *“In order to deny the biblical sexual ethic you say, ‘Come on, This is just who I am. And I know that because this is how I feel!’ And I would have said that very thing 25 years ago. What you have to then believe is that*

you know yourself better than the Word of God does. That statement is not true, because the Word of God knows you better than you do.... As a created being you were born male or female in the image of God, for a distinct purpose. When sin entered the world, our ability to see and embrace that purpose became very muddled and even impossible apart from Christ. But because the Lord designed us for a purpose, our job is to embrace that. If tomorrow the sun and moon wanted to swap roles, that doesn't work. The sun doesn't wake up and say, 'I really feel like I'm a moon.' That's absurd. But somehow when human beings do it we think we're so gifted we can do that. I think it's helpful to recognize at that point that we're not reading the same Bible." - Rosaria Butterfield

4. Surely you don't take the Bible literally?
 - a. We take the Bible "literaturally". We seek to understand it within its own context, knowing that it employs various modes of literature.
5. Gen 1-3 is mythical, as are other key parts of the Bible
6. The Bible was just put together by powerful men in dark channel backrooms centuries afterwards
7. Jesus never spoke about homosexuality / The word homosexual wasn't even added to the Bible until 1946.
8. Revelation is progressive.

All of these objections have simple remedies, and you will find them if you merely seek them.

[Jer 29:13 ESV] (13) You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Things to meditate on:

- God's Word is True - FAITHFUL WITNESS (John 17:17)
- God's Word is Reliable - FIRM FOUNDATION (Matt. 7:24-27)
- God's Word is Sufficient - FINAL AUTHORITY (Matt. 4:1-10)
- God's Word is Liberating - FREEING RESCUE (John 8:32)
- God's Word is Life-Giving - FULFILLING WHOLENESS (John 6:66-68)
- God's Word is Eternal - FOREVER HOPE (Luke 21:33)
- God's Word is a Person - FULL RELATIONSHIP (John 1:1, 14:6)

[1Th 5:21 ESV] (21) but test everything; hold fast what is good.