

DECONSTRUCTING DECONSTRUCTION

Sermon Points

Week 1 - 8.14.22 | Tyler Wilson

Title: What is Progressive Christianity?

Scripture: Galatians 1:6-10

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Main Point: A post-modern distortion of the gospel called Progressive Christianity permeates our current culture, calling for our vigilant, humble, eager, and compassionate engagement with the true gospel in response.

QUESTION #1 - Why do a series on false teaching? Why not just focus on the true gospel?

1. False Teaching is Prevalent
 - a. Matthew 24:4,11
 - b. We want to protect what is true so much that we're willing to take time to expose what is false
 - i. Ephesians 5:11
2. False Teaching is Treated Seriously
 - a. Galatians 1:6-9, 2:4-5
 - b. Ephesians 4:15-16
3. False Teachers are Treated as Threats
 - a. Acts 20:28-30
4. False Teaching is Demonically Driven
 - a. 1 Timothy 4:1-2
5. False Teaching is Alluring
 - a. 2 Corinthians 11:1-4,13-15
6. False Teachings are False Gospels
 - a. False Teachings pose a different problem than sin and offer a different solution than the cross of Jesus.
 - i. 2 Peter 2:1-3

QUESTION #2 - Why talk about a particular false teaching vs. false teaching in general?

1. False Teachings (and teachers) are specifically referenced and expounded on in the Bible, not just generally talked about.
 - a. 2 Timothy 2:16-18
 - b. 1 Timothy 1:18-20

QUESTION #3 - Why focus on this particular one - Progressive Christianity?

1. It's Prevelant,
2. It's Aggressive,
3. It's Elusive

QUESTION #4 - Is the point to slam this teaching and people who believe it?

1. These people are not the enemy - they're sheep who need their Shepherd.

QUESTION #5 - Enough already... What is Deconstruction and Progressive Christianity?

Theological Fruits of 'Deconstruction'

1. Bible - oppose the Bible's reliability
2. Creation - Affirm evolution and mythologize Gen. 1-2
3. Sin - Hold shame & injustice as the great enemies, not sin and Satan (Original blessing vs. original sin)
4. Atonement - See the substitutionary atonement of the cross as cruel. Jesus is simply an example of love.
5. Deity of Jesus - De-emphasize or reject in favor of His humanity.
6. Trinity - Move towards Panentheism: God is in all things and Christ is an energy
7. Resurrection - Doubt or deny the physical resurrection of Jesus
8. Supernatural & Miracles - Viewed with high skepticism and more metaphorical
9. God's Attributes - Redefined or not defined at all
10. Hell & Final Judgment - Rejected as not a real place. In the end, all people will be in heaven (universalism)
11. Religious Pluralism - Believe all religious roads are leading to the same God.

Cultural Fruits of 'Deconstruction'

1. Relativism & Tolerance
2. Redefine Gender & Sexuality
3. Wholly Embrace Critical Theory
4. Suspicion of Authority & Absolutes

Common Language:

- "The Bible is a human book"
- "That's your interpretation"
- "What kind of God would ___? I can't believe in a God like that."
- "Marriage is about equality. Love is love."
- "Certainty is a sin. That's arrogant for you to think you have it figured out."
- "What's true for you is true for you - you do you."
- "Why are you being so hateful & exclusive, we're after the same thing!"
- "Need to get with the times. Wrong side of history."
- "Questions are more important than answers. We're all on a faith journey."

QUESTION #6 - What do we do with this?

1. Vigilance vs. Apathy - Let's wake up to the seriousness.
2. Humility vs. Pride - Let's examine our own hearts.
 - a. Progressive Christianity is particularly attractive to:

- i. Contemplative people
 - ii. Empathetic, high mercy people
 - iii. Dissatisfied and marginalized people - especially women and minorities.
 - iv. Hurt and wounded people, specifically from church.
 - v. Confused people who have struggled for answers with clarity.
 - vi. People who grew up in:
 - 1. Legalistic expressions of Christianity with lots of manmade traditions that felt suffocating or cultish even.
 - 2. Irrelevant, watered-down, fun and flashy versions of Christianity with no regard for depth and truth.
- b. If you don't genuinely do the humble work of self-examination, then you will do the hateful work of others-condemnation
- 3. Eagerness vs. Fear - Let's lean in with faith & freedom.
 - a. 1. Thessalonians 5:21
 - 4. Compassion vs. Coldness - Let's engage people in love.
 - 5. Praise vs Presumption - Let's rejoice in the true gospel