

Reconstruction: What Is Deconstruction and Why Should I Care?
1 Thessalonians 5:12-22
Al Gascon | May 7th 2023

1. Deconstruction is the process of taking apart and examining an idea, tradition, practice, or belief to determine its truthfulness, usefulness, and impact.
2. Deconstruction is a critical dismantling of a person's understanding of what it means to be an evangelical Christian.

⇒ Unhealthy deconstruction leads a person down the path of deconversion.

Why are we talking deconstruction and why should I care?

- a. Unhealthy deconstruction/doubt are always just a few tragedies, traumatic events, or choices away from a loss of faith.
- b. Deconstruction normally occurs in younger Christians who have grown up in church.
- c. Deconstruction is the next battlefield and is imploding the western church from the inside.

What are the goals of this sermon series?

- a. Bring awareness, edification, and preparation concerning deconstruction.
- b. Confirm our beliefs by examination instead of dismantling them.
- c. Understand what objective truth is and why we believe it to be the Bible.
- d. Bring aid and hope to anyone doubting or deconstructing.

Christians are being told, "It's time to question everything you learned, time to read the Bible through new eyes, time to put away your presuppositions and cherished beliefs, and time to be brutally honest with yourself. When you do, you will no longer profess your Christian faith—at least, not in the way you once did. It's time to be enlightened!" – Dr. Michael Brown

Personal Results of Deconstruction

- Strengthened faith
- Progressive/liberal faith
- No faith
- Confused and identify with the none's

Motive of Deconstruction

Movement	Individual
Sift through "false" truths in the Bible/Church	Simply putting scripture to the test
Upend "outdated" Christian beliefs and practices	Confusion after trauma or tragedy
Move the moral/ethical line in the sand in our churches	Desiring a deeper understanding of what they believe in why they believe it
Rediscover the meaning of life and the way to truly live it without certain biblical foundations	Seeking answers to questions that went unanswered
Call Christians to deconstruct and abandon the faith	Seeing injustice or sin in the church or from leadership
	Upset about _____ and wanting to see change
	Desire to justify a behavior or action declared unjust by the Bible

Means of Deconstruction

Movement	Individual
God is love and only love (no wrath)	Follow the means of the movement ... OR...
God is not concerned with Justice	Seek God with all their being, even while doubting
Bible is outdated and so are its traditions/practices	Hold fast to God/Jesus/the Bible being the objective truth in this world
There is no objective truth	Examine all doctrine and decide if it's from man or God
Jesus is the greatest life coach of all time	Shed false tradition and wrong living and reform
Jesus' true teachings and ways were altered	Acknowledge the need for salvation
Culture, Science, Philosophy, Self > Scripture	Scripture > Culture, Science, Philosophy, etc.

Results of Deconstruction

Movement	Individual
Hundreds of thousands/millions deceived	Progressive/Liberal faith
Weak, worldly church	No faith
New church that doesn't acknowledge sin	Further confusion
Bible becomes a motivational book (only the love parts)	Identify with the "nones"
End of conservative Christianity in the west (possibly)	Strengthened and renewed faith in Christ