

DECONSTRUCTION



Faith Deconstruction

- Major impact on younger generations, 30 yrs. old and younger, but predominantly with the college age. However, older Christians deconstruct as well.
- On average, we are losing the next generation by 40%-50% post high school.
- Why is this happening?

Defining Faith Deconstruction

- Rethinking Christian beliefs without using the Bible as the standard – rather worldviews and philosophies
- Discarding Bible truths and flawed perspectives
- Triggered by various factors, such as:
 - *Church wounds, discouragement, desire, influence, conflicts, dilemmas, dogmatism*
- Leads to doubts and discouragement weakening faith

The Reality of Doubt

■ Doubt vs Unbelief:

- *Doubt involves an open question posture searching truth*
- *Unbelief is willful rejection of faith, justifying mindset*

■ Followers of Jesus also struggled with doubt

- *John the Baptist (Matt. 3:11-17; 11:1-6) & Peter (Matt. 14:22-33)*
 - ✓ *Doubt is not a sign of weak faith but honest seeking in the face of difficult questions.*

■ God can handle our questions

- Psalm 73 and Habakkuk 1:2-4
- God welcomes our doubts with sincere seeking (Jer.29:13)

Answering the Reasons Behind Deconstruction

#1 Spiritual Abuse - *authoritarian legalistic brethren*

- Bad brethren or leaders don't invalidate Jesus (Acts 20:29-30)
- Focus on Christ, not fallible people (Hebrews 12:1-2)

#2 Sin Justification - *worldliness, relationships, addictions*

- Grace covers, but does not approve of ongoing sin (Romans 6:1-4)
- Obey God rather than people (Acts 5:29)

#3 Extremism - *strict positions on non-essentials*

- We have freedom in non-essentials (Romans 14:1-4)
- Balance grace and truth (John 1:14, 17)

Answering the Reasons Behind Deconstruction

#4 Hypocrisy - *the witnessing of fake faith*

- No one is perfect, we all need grace (Romans 7:21-25)
- The key is authenticity in our faith - be authentic (Psalm 51:6)

#5 Apathy - *I don't care attitude*

- Complacency is unacceptable (Revelation 3:14-16)
- We are to render sacrificial service (Mark 10:45)

Doubts and Questions in Our Christian Journey

- 1. Doubts and questions should not lead us to deconstruct our faith, but to seek God more earnestly and examine our beliefs more carefully (*Isaiah 1:18; John 14:6*)**
- 2. As we walk with Jesus, we must also walk with each other, encouraging, inspiring, and restoring one another in godliness (*Hebrews 10:24-25*)**
- 3. In all things, we must remember that our faith rests on Christ alone (*Ephesians 2:8-9*)**

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Hear and Learn – *Rom. 10:17; John 6:45; 17:3*

Believe – *Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24*

Confess the Lord – *Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10*

Repent – *Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30*

Be Baptized – *Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:21*

Be Faithful Unto Death – *Revelation 2:10*

Go and Share the Good News!

Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16