

Carol Windnagle - Deconstruction Presentation [Sept. 21, 2024](#)

Renew Women's Conference-"Footprints of Faith."

The Deconstruction of Christianity

What it is,

Why it's destructive.

And how to respond?

This is a summary of the book by Alisa Childers and Tim Barnett.

See 2 Tim. 4:10-

Apostasy is nothing new. Demas has fallen in love with the things of this world and abandoned his faith.

What is new is the cool postmodern terminology that has emerged in the West for doing so: that is, "deconstruction of faith."

Faith deconstruction is a postmodern process of rethinking your faith without regarding Scripture as a standard.

A question of authority

- Deconstruction is fundamentally at odds with Christianity because it has little to do with trying to achieve correct theology. Heb. [5:14](#), Pro. 2:2-5, Phil. 1:9-10, 1 Thess. [5:21](#)
- There is no end goal, or destination, to the deconstruction process. There is just a never-ending skepticism of your view.
- With deconstruction, there is no external authority to tell you what your view should look like. There is just a never-ending process of skepticism of your view. You are the ultimate authority.

This is what deconstructors are choosing to reject:

- A literal reading of the Bible-this means rejecting a “literal reading” of the Bible often means rejecting the idea that the text has a literal, objective meaning the Christian needs to discover and accept.
- A belief that women are to be submissive to men-this assumes submission is inherently oppressive.
- A belief in the sanctity of heterosexuality/heteronormativity and a rejection of homosexuality as sinful.
- The assumption that the American way of life is best.
- Identification and partnership with political and social conservatism.

If deconstruction is an explosion, then crisis is the burning fuse that detonates it.

Crisis:

- Abuse
- Suffering
- Doubts/questions
- Politics

Francis Schaefer, theologian and philosopher, saw all this coming back in the 1970s.....

Our culture divides truth into two realms: Picture in your mind a house with two stories:

The lower story is math, facts, logic, science.

The upper story are likes and preferences.

Does religion belong in the lower story or the upper story? Is religion a fact or personal preference? Religion and morality has been put in the upper story by our culture so it is not in the realm of true.

When we say Christianity is true, there is a confusion that occurs. Our culture thinks we are claiming it's true for me...making it subjective not objective.

But WE ARE CLAIMING CHRISTIANITY IS TRUE TO REALITY. It is objective truth.

John 18: 37, John 14:6

Christianity is true truth and explains reality. Deconstruction treats your beliefs as if they are nothing but preferences in the upper story.

Deconstruction is a flawed process. It assigns religious belief to the upper story, treating truth as a matter of personal preference, and makes the individual the ultimate authority.

ADVICE and HOPE

Here are some practical steps you can take as you walk a loved one through this painful process:

1. Pray-Remind yourself of the rich and valuable truth of Phil. 4:4-9 god promises peace, which goes beyond all understanding. We are instructed to abandon our anxiety and go to God in prayer.
2. Stay calm and stay in their lives. People often find themselves in deconstruction after a crisis or series of crises, which can be complex and layered. Don't jump in to fix them. Your goal is to keep the communication lines open. Step 2 could be weeks, months or years. Be very thankful if they are even talking to you. Establish yourself as a safe person to talk to. They may feel church is not a safe place. Live Gal. 5-the fruit of the Spirit.
3. Do some triage-the process of assessing the urgency and significance of someone's injuries before deciding which wounds to treat first...like in a hospital.
4. Set boundaries(and respect theirs)

Conclusion: Mark 9:23 "If you can..." All things are possible

Offer the Deconstructor's Prayer

Resource: The Deconstruction of Christianity-what is it, why is it destructive, and how to respond. Authors: Alisa Childers and Tim Barnett