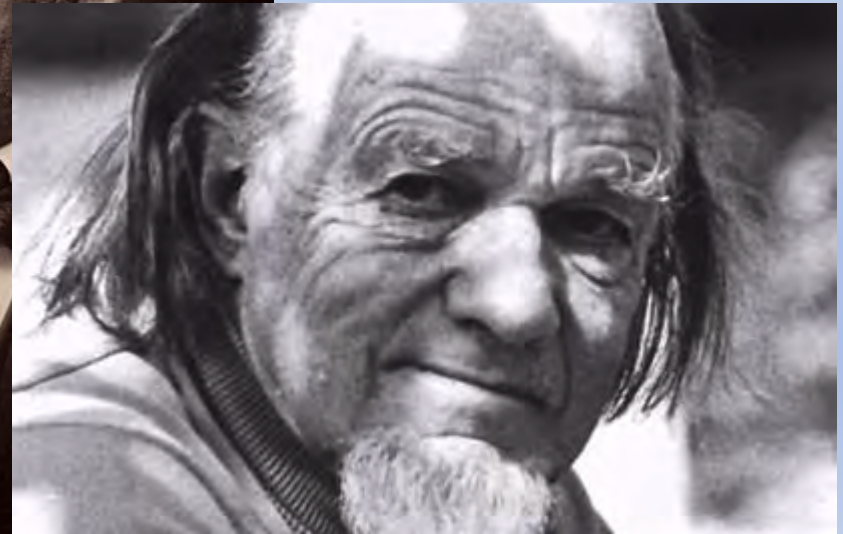




Christian Deconstruction

Summer Breakout

July 9, 2023





Another Gospel?

A Lifelong Christian

Seeks Truth in Response to

Progressive Christianity

What is Deconstruction?

“...Dismantling of doctrinal tenets – where all the beliefs someone was raised with and had never questioned are systematically pulled apart – is something progressive Christians call deconstruction.”

- Alissa Childers

“Deconstruction is essentially just a fancy word for Doubt.”

- Samuel Sey

Deconstruction is not Deconversion

What is a “Christian”?

The Early Creeds and Confessions:

- 1 Corinthians 15:3-8
- Apostles Creed
- Nicene Creed
- Westminster Confession



Immanuel's Statement of Faith

Deconstruction – It's Roots

- A postmodern concept that there's "there is no such thing as facts, just interpretations."
- No such thing as biblical truth, just interpretation.
- Deconstructionism is a strategic approach to critiquing and attacking western philosophy as an oppressive philosophy designed by Europeans to manipulate people into accepting harmful ideas as truth.
- People who deconstruct their faith critique and attack (Western) Christianity as an oppressive theology designed by Europeans to manipulate people into accepting harmful ideas as Biblical truth.

The Emerging Church

- Fluid and Hard to Define
- Adherents Call the Movement a “conversation”
- Emphasize Its Decentralized Nature
- Participants Seek to Live their Faith in a “Postmodern” Society
- Disillusionment with Organized and Institutional Church
- Support for “Deconstruction” of Modern Christian Worship, Modern Evangelism, and Modern Christian Community.
- Led to Progressive Christianity

Emphasis on Love versus Judgement



Why Do People Deconstruct?

- Listening to the Hiss of the Serpent, “Did God Really Say?”

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- They Were Never True Believers







THE
HOLINESS
OF
GOD

RCSPROUL



A high view of God leads to high worship and holy living, but a low of God leads to trivial worship and low living.

— *Steven J. Lawson* —

AZ QUOTES

2 Corinthians
10:5

**⁵ We destroy arguments
and every lofty opinion
raised against the
knowledge of God, and
take every thought
captive to obey Christ,**

1 Peter 3:15

**15 but in your hearts
honor Christ the Lord as
holy, always being
prepared to make a
defense to anyone who
asks you for a reason for
the hope that is in you;
yet do it with gentleness
and respect,**

Matthew
28:18 - 20

18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** **Go** therefore and **make** disciples of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** **teaching** them to observe all that I have commanded you.

Why Should We Worry About “Deconstruction”?

- Awareness
- It Is In Our Midst
- Prepare to Destroy Arguments Against the Knowledge of God
- Prepare To Defend the Hope That Is Within Us
- Fulfill the Great Commission

We Are God's Hands and Feet

Progressive Christianity Issues

- **The Inspiration and Inerrancy of the Bible**
- **The Cross**
- **The Gospel**
- **The Divinity and Exclusivity of Jesus**
- **Complementarianism**
- **Christian Sexual Ethics**
- **Hell Versus Universalism**
- **Is the Church a Problem?**
- **Does the Bible Have the Authority of God?**
- **Is God a Moral Monster?**

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The Inspiration and Inerrancy of the Bible

“Most progressives see the Bible as an archaic travel journal that documents what ancient Jews and Christians believed about God. Not all of it is authoritative. Not all of it inspired. None of it inerrant.”
- Alissa Childers

- One of the first things a deconstructionist must do is deal with the Bible.
- The Church fathers had a deep love for scripture and defense of the Gospel.
- Clement, Tertullian, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, St. Augustine of Hippo
- Deconstruction is not new.

Hebrews
1:1-2

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world

2 Timothy
3:16-17

¹⁶ All Scripture is
breathed out by God
and profitable for
teaching, for reproof, for
correction, and for
training in
righteousness, ¹⁷ that th
e man of God may be
complete, equipped for
every good work.

1 Peter
1:20-21

²⁰ knowing this first
of all, that no
prophecy of
Scripture comes
from someone's
own interpretation.

1 Corinthians
2:13

¹³ And we impart
this in words not
taught by human
wisdom but taught by
the Spirit, interpreting
spiritual truths to
those who are
spiritual.

The Cross

“The progressive view of the Cross is that Jesus was killed by an angry mob of speaking truth to power. God didn’t need his sacrifice, but in some way submitted to it in order to set an example of forgiveness for us all to follow.” - Alissa Childers

- From the Beginning of the Church, Christians have believed that Jesus died for our sins...in our place...as our substitute.
- Epistle of Barnabas
- Athanasius, Augustine

²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Gospel

“By denying original sin and God’s plan to redeem humans and reconcile them to himself, the progressive gospel gives us an impotent deity who can only stand in “solidarity” with humans in our suffering and evil but cannot cure it. This is not the gospel of Jesus.”

- Alissa Childers

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...Romans 3:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord...Romans 6:23

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“The strength of the evidence for the Christian worldview is so strong that one would have to willfully shut their eyes to it.”

- Alisa Childers

“Another Gospel? A Lifelong Christian Seeks Truth in Response to Progressive Christianity”