

Deconstruction 101

There is a new theme (probably an old theme) that is permeating the Christian world. It's called deconstruction of faith. I have been going to church for 23 years now. There have been highs and lows. How is it possible to have lows in the house of love? God is love. Jesus promotes love. Those with the Spirit of God have love flowing through them. Yet, inside the house of love is people. Read the letters of Paul and you will see that love for the brethren is not a gimmie in the house of God. God loves, but people have a hard time with it. Deconstruction happens when people say they love but their actions tell another story.

Recently, I know of a church that promotes a philosophy driven towards loving people. However, one of their own fell off the holiness train. This church shunned them until they repent. One of these churches slogans is "at all costs." Yet, the fallen remain shunned. There is God's love and then there is people love. Deconstruction happens when the clash between human love and Godly love collides. Unfortunately, the victim is left questioning the owner of the house. Why does a loving God let people run amuck in his house? Why don't Christians love like God does? Then the victims begin to think "does God care like humans care?" Deconstruction of faith does not happen by accident.

I would put money down that most churches think deconstructed Christians were weak. That they had the issue, not the church. Yet, the rumors of bad church conduct plague the entity called religion. "Were not religious" scream the churches! "The ones appointed in power have God's favor" praise the brethren! Yet, Moses and David fell. Peter was chastised by the Lord himself. I suspect that deconstruction happens when appearance of love overshadows the acts of love. That's why churches have slogans. It's why they enact porn repelling programs on church computers, but not sin repelling programs for the heart.

What does God have to say? Hebrews 10:38-39 *“but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.”* 39 *But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.”* It’s the battle between two types of Christianity. 1 Peter 3:15 *“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.”* So, which does God approve of in the Bible? Are there mixed messages? I suspect it’s a little of both. 2 Timothy 3:16 *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”*

Solomon wrote *there is a time for everything under the sun*. The problem with church conduct is flavor of the month. This month we hate porn. Next month we hate gossip. It’s like the pastorate gives the gerbils something to run for on the wheel. Just dangle the slogan and the religious wheel turns. In the mean time patience, love, compassion, and sacrifice are tossed off the wheel in epic fashion. That is where deconstruction steps in and saves the day.

I am convinced beyond any doubt that church slogans are the devil’s best friend. I would not be surprised if he invented and encourages them. Give the people condemning purpose. Give them horse blinders to the unsaved. Deconstruction of faith comes in by the love of slogans and the absence of the love of people. In a book I read years ago, the writer said that within the back alley of a pimp and prostitute church was drugs and sex. Yet, he saw the movement of the Spirit like never before. How is that possible? Where is the righteous and holy God within that? God reached out to the pimps and prostitutes in love. He offered them a way back to heaven through the messy lives they led. A path from destruction. It’s where sin meets grace. The fallen meet God. I suspect their slogan was “we are a mess, but God has a plan.”

A life saved is worth everything! Everything? Great slogan! Romans 10:14 *“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?”* If God saved you then help others be saved too. If you found the joy of the Lord then share it with others. If Jesus sacrificed his deity and dignity for you then sacrifice yours for others. How to beat deconstruction of faith 101? Love from the heart and not from a slogan. Don't say a life is worth everything if you're not willing to sacrifice everything to help messy people find a way back to heaven. All you might end up with is a deconstructed soul looking for a loving church and finding slogans instead.