

THE HOPE OF RECONSTRUCTING

Series: “DECONSTRUCTING AND RECONSTRUCTING”, Part 2 of 2

Sunday, May 1, 2022 at 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Text: Matthew 11:1-11a

Big Idea: The hope, through the process of deconstruction, is to come out on the other side with a more robust, resilient and well-informed faith, than when you started.

Deconstruction: a critical questioning and dismantling of one’s beliefs about what it means to be a Christian.

1. LET’S MAKE GRACE FELLOWSHIP A SAFE AND INVITING PLACE FOR DECONSTRUCTORS TO BRING THEIR HONEST DOUBTS AND QUESTIONS.

A. The Bible commands it.

Jude 22, “And have mercy on some, who are doubting.” {NASV}

Matthew 28:16-17, “Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; **but some doubted.**”

Mark 9:24, “Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

B. Most people in the dark tunnel of doubt didn’t make a conscious choice to be there.

C. For many people, compassion and mercy is a more compelling witness for Christ than the truth itself.

John 13:34-35, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

2. HOLD ON TO YOUR ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN BELIEFS UNTIL YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT IS CLEARLY PROVEN TO BE BETTER.

A. You may be reacting against a distorted version of Christianity rather than Christianity itself.

B. It takes time to examine the evidence and consider its merits.

Matthew 11:4-5, "Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor."

C. Confident faith often comes as a result of first doing God's will.

John 7:17, "If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own."