Your Greatest Doubts and Fears
How to Keep the Faith When Facing Life's Toughest Questions

#10: Lots of Christians are "deconstructing" their faith? Does that mean Christianity isn't true?

Intro: Whatever Happened to Susan Pevensie?

I. The Definition of "Deconstruction"

A. Historical Meaning of "Deconstruction"
- Refers to breaking down a worldview into its constituent parts in order to find its problems and weaknesses
- Typically associated with philosopher Jacques Derrida

B. To Deconstruct, therefore, is essentially the equivalent of Apostasy

- What an Apostate is Not:
  - An apostate is not just a non-Christian outside the church
  - An apostate is not just a non-Christian inside the church
  - An apostate is not just a struggling Christian

- What an Apostate Is:
  - Someone who seemed to be a believer, was part of Christ's visible church, participated in the community of faith, and then later rejects Christ, turns away from sound teaching, and leaves the church.
  - Key point: Apostates are those who were once *inside* the church, but then later *leave* the church.

- Biblical examples of apostasy?

C. Note: Some use "deconstruction" more positively
- It's an attempt to expose unbiblical views or practices that Christians have adopted or condoned
- In this sense, deconstructing is not becoming a non-Christian but is an attempt to "reform" a problematic version of Christianity

II. Clarifications About Apostasy/Deconstruction

A. True Believers Cannot Lose Their Salvation

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one can snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:27-28)

B. Apostates Don't Know They're Apostates

C. We Can't Always Predict Who Will Be an Apostate
   - Judas went around casting out demons
   - Saul prophesied
   - Matt 7:22-23: "On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord did not we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many might works in your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you.'"

D. People Can Apostasize In Different Ways

III. Responding to Apostasy/Deconstruction

A. Response to Those Who Apostasize/Deconstruct

   - Compassion
   - Don't give up

B. Response In Your Own Life

   - Take the Warnings Seriously
   - Reflect On Your Own Spiritual Condition
   - Keep Your Focus on the Beauty of Christ

Class Schedule:

Jan 9: Doubting Christian: What Role do Doubts and Fear Play in the Christian Life?
Jan 16: [Class cancelled for snow]
Jan 23: If Christianity is True then Why do so Many Intelligent People reject it?
Jan 30: Does saying Jesus is the Only Way Make us Arrogant or Intolerant?
Feb 6: Does the existence of evil and suffering in the world mean that God doesn't exist?
Feb 13: Some parts of the Bible seem morally troubling—are we sure it's a "good" book?
Feb 20: How Do I Deal with Depression and Anxiety About the Future?
Feb 27: Missions Week, Combined Sunday School
Mar 6: If Christianity is true, then how we do explain the bad behavior of Christians?
Mar 13: Isn't Christianity just the same as all the other religions? What makes it different?
Mar 20: What if the Gospels are just made-up stories? Is it possible everything we believe is a lie?
Mar 27: Lots of Christians are "deconstructing" their faith? Does that mean Christianity isn't true?
April 3: What do I do if Christianity Just isn't working for me?
April 10: What if I am Not a Christian? How Can I Know for Sure?