

NOV 27, 2022

MUTUAL AFFECTION & LOVE
2 Peter 1:3-11

If you want a faith that is vibrant and fruitful...
Make every effort to add to your faith...
mutual affection and love.
2 Peter 1:5-7 (NIV)

_____ : a term used to describe when a person critically dismantles what it means to be an evangelical Christian. It involves rethinking questioned accepted beliefs and traditional authority structures (like the church) or authoritative voices that “speak for God.”

Four Greek words for “love” in the New Testament:

- 1) _____: Romantic love.
- 2) _____: Familial love.
- 3) _____: Friend. Brotherly love. *Mutual affection.*
Ro 12:10; Heb 13:1
- 4) _____: Most often used to describe God’s love. *Love.*
John 3:16; 13:34-35; 21:15-17

Love is often the _____ virtue in scripture lists of ethics, ideals, or virtues. 1Cor 13:1-3; 13; Col 3:12-14

The seven virtues are a guide to a deconstruction that leads to a more _____ and _____ faith. 2Pet 1:8-9

People go through faith deconstruction because they’re questioning:

1. _____ that have contaminated faith.
2. _____ and _____ (that can be as powerful as doctrines) that don’t seem supported in scripture.
3. _____ in institutional faith or authority structures.

Talking through the message during the week can really help clarify the things that God is teaching you and let others learn from your experiences. Get with someone this week and talk about your answers to the following questions:

Big Picture

What stood out most in the message to you regarding something that you learned, challenged you, or that you disagreed with?

Dig In

In what ways have you “deconstructed” your faith? If you have, what led you to do so? Describe the process you used to do so. How has deconstruction led you to a more vibrant and authentic faith?

Has there ever been a time when you’ve gone through “deconversion” (left the faith)? Why did you come back? Or what is keeping you from coming back now?

Read 1Cor 13:1-3 & 13; Col 3:12-14. Why do you think love is the culminating or most important virtue in these lists? What can the church (or you) do to put love back as our highest priority?

Teacher’s Pick

Read the interaction between Peter and Jesus in John 21:17-22. Knowing what you know now about the different words for love being used by them, what do you see in this passage that causes you to rethink what it means to follow Jesus?

Putting It Into Practice

What can you do over the next year to “make every effort” to personally focus on the virtues in 2 Peter 1:3-11? Why would you even want to?

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Deconstruction: a term used to describe when a person critically dismantles what it means to be an evangelical Christian. It involves rethinking questioning accepted beliefs and traditional authority structures (like the church) or authoritative voices that “speak for God.”

Four Greek words for “love” in the New Testament:

- 1) Eros: Romantic love.
- 2) Storge: Familial love.
- 3) Philia: Friend. Brotherly love. *Mutual affection.*
Ro 12:10; Heb 13:1
- 4) Agape: Most often used to describe God’s love. *Love.*
John 3:16; 13:34-35; 21:15-17

Love is often the culminating virtue in scripture lists of ethics, ideals, or virtues. 1Cor 13:1-3; 13; Col 3:12-14

The seven virtues are a guide to a deconstruction that leads to a more authentic and vibrant faith. 2Pet 1:8-9

People go through faith deconstruction because they’re questioning:

1. Cultural ideologies that have contaminated faith.
2. Doctrines and traditions (that can be as powerful as doctrines) that don’t seem supported in scripture.
3. Corruption in institutional faith or authority structures.

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