



WEEK EIGHT | RECONSTRUCTING LOVE

There is a question later in this discussion that is intriguing and disturbing at the same time. I'll check later to see if you guessed which one it is. Many people like to say, "Are you all in?" If you're going to commit to something, you might as well just go all in. That's not a bad thing. It's actually a good thing. However, when the thing you are committing to is misunderstood and misguided, the trouble just goes deeper and deeper until real damage is done. That's why we must learn and listen to Jesus first. He told us what is most important. He showed us how to do what he told us to do.

GETTING STARTED

Why is going "all in" when deconstructing a dangerous thing?

How much do you think emotions and feelings have to do with deconstructing?

TALK ABOUT IT

"Theological triage" is determining your spiritual condition much like they do physically in the ER. The first question is "How bad is it? Do your questions about faith concern core truths or peripheral issues? Is it central to your faith or more about opinions or interpretive issues?"

When an excessive number of doctrines and practices rise to the level of the non-negotiable, this creates a "house of cards" faith, and if any one doctrine is rejected, the entire edifice will collapse." Karen Prior

What do you think about what she said? How have you seen it happen or experienced it yourself?

Read Mark 12:28-34

**** Caution – Transparency required—Does it somewhat disappoint you that Jesus narrowed the essentials down to two things? Would it have disappointed you earlier in your life? Shouldn't it be harder than that?**

APPLY IT

If Jesus said it is impossible to have good faith without love, why do “believers” push so hard to tack on all the other peripheral things to prove good faith?

Loving God and loving your neighbor looks simple. In real life, how difficult is that?

How do/have you struggled with guilt as a believer?

How have you learned/are learning to trust Jesus and let go of your guilt about not being good enough?

**So which question was the disturbing one? The one where I cautioned you about transparency. Many of us were trained to believe that loving God and others is too easy. Secretly, we want it to be harder to prove worth. You gotta work for it. It is definitely NOT easy.

PRAY

Love is our guide, truth is our foundation, gentleness and respect are our approach, Jesus is our unity. None of that is easy but Jesus never promised that following him would be easy. Let's pray.