



**THE  
DECONSTRUCTING  
MOVEMENT**

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**DARING TO ASK THE FAITH QUESTIONS THAT  
ARE CAUSING SOME TO LEAVE THE CHURCH**

A

CHURCH

THAT

PRAYS

- Pray for the prayer request printed in your bulletin.
- Our Junior Class and also our small group led by Amanda Applegath
- Our church plant WordServe
- Sister church, Faith City Church and Pastor Phinehas Kinuthia
- The Azer\*baijani of Azerbaijan

**We ask all this for the glory of Your name.**

*“For My House Shall Be Called A House Of Prayer For All Nations.” Isaiah 56:7*

Please pray for this request shared during last week’s worship service.

**Pray for  
others**

# ***The Deconstructing Movement***

## **“Leaving the Church Over Justice Questions”**

### **Romans 12:9-21 – November 20, 2022**

<b>THE DECONSTRUCTING MOVEMENT</b>		
<i>Daring to Ask the Faith Questions That Are Causing Some to Leave the Church</i>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Message Title</b>	<b>Bible Text</b>
Oct 30	What is the Deconstructing Movement? (Part 1)	James 1:19
Nov 6	What is the Deconstructing Movement? (Part 2)	John 4
Nov 13	Leaving the Church Over Sexuality Questions [PG-13]	Eph. 3:14-21
Nov 20	Leaving the Church Over Justice Questions	Rom. 12:9-21
Nov 27	Leaving the Church Over Narrow Mindedness	
Dec 4	Leaving the Church Over Political Questions	
Dec 11	Repenting as the Church	

**Main Idea:** God \_\_\_\_\_ about justice. And He wants His Church to pursue justice His way.

## **God Cares About Justice**

### **God is Just**

- **Deuteronomy 32:4** – *The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.*
- **Psalms 103:6** – *The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.*

### **God \_\_\_\_\_ Justice**

- **Micah 6:8** – *What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*
- **Titus 3:14** – *And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.*

### **Jesus’ Mission Included Bringing Justice**

- **Luke 4:18** – *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.*

### **Justice Issues Today**

Racism	Human Trafficking	Poverty
Abortion	Health Care	COVID
Voting Fraud	Lack of Food/Water	Widows & Orphans
Refugees	Unreached People	And so much more...

# Cultural Lens of Justice

## Progress Through \_\_\_\_\_ Change

- Political and institutional structures need to change to bring about progress on earth.
- **Center for Economic and Social Justice** – “Social justice imposes on each of us a personal responsibility to work with others to design and continually perfect our institutions as tools for personal and social development.”

## The History of Social Justice

- **Socrates** (470-399 BC) – *Developed the Social Contract*
- **Jean-Jacques Rousseau** (1712-1778) – *The Inner man*
  - “*Man is born free, yet everywhere he is in chains.*”
- **Thomas Paine** (1737-1809) – *The Rights of Man*
- **Luigi Taparelli** (1793-1862) – *Coined the term “Social Justice”*
- **John Rawls** (1921-2002) – *A Theory of Justice*

**Mark Sayers** – “For key Western thinkers, from Jean-Jacques Rousseau to Thomas Paine, the golden period to return to was not the ancient world of Greece and Rome, but an even earlier period. These thinkers believed that before human society, a pure *natural* state existed – a state in which humans were free of oppression and hierarchy. Paine advocated for *revolution* that would return us to this pure, primal state of nature.”

Application #1 – Where have I put my hope ultimately in institutions?

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## Way (Romans 12:9-21)

### Marks of the True Church (*An Alternative to Futility*)

- **Elton Trueblood** – “The true Church is comprised of the company of loving souls, exhibiting the mind of Christ.”

### 1 – The Company of Loving Souls (Verses 9-13)

- “Let love be genuine”
- **Tony Evans** – “Biblical love is the decision to compassionately, righteously, and responsibly seek the well-being of another person.”

### Verse 9 – *Hate... yet Hold Fast*

- What you hate reveals a lot about you.
- **Frederick Douglass** – “For, between the Christianity of this land, and the Christianity of Christ, I recognize the widest possible difference – so wide, that to receive the one as good, pure, and holy, is of necessity to be the enemy of the other. I love the pure,

peaceable, and impartial Christianity of Christ: I therefore hate the corrupt, slaveholding, women-whipping, cradle-plundering, partial and hypocritical Christianity of this land.”

- **C.S. Lewis** – *The Real Test of Charity* Example

### **Verses 10-11** – *Honor... but Don't Lose* \_\_\_\_\_

- Zeal and passion often cause division. So, Paul says we need to love and honor one another. *But*, never at the expense of losing our passion.
- **Francis Chan** – *Until Unity* Quote

### **Verses 12-13** – *Hope + Hospitality*

- Never lose hope. Rejoice in a steady hope. Get your eyes up when it gets difficult. Stay dependent on God in prayer.
- **Rosaria Butterfield** – “The gospel comes with a house key.”

## **2 – Exhibiting the Mind of Christ** (Verses 14-21)

- “Bless those who persecute you” (Matthew 5:44)
- This reflects the Jesus the world is so desperate to see.

### **How Do You Have the Mind of Christ?**

- *Love Your Enemies* (v. 14)
- *Learn to Listen* (v. 15)
- *Live out Humility* (v. 16-18)
- *Let God Avenge* (v. 19)
- *Leave out the Excuses: Do Something!* (v. 20-21)

Application #2 – What do I think about *God's Way*? Am I making the Church look *more* or *less* like this to the watching world?

## **Applications + Questions for the Church**

### **Are we willing to own where we have prioritized the institution of the church rather than the mission of the church?**

- **My friend** – “The money you spend on your own events and buildings often speaks louder than the platitudes you preach. You are loudest when you fear your own luxuries are in jeopardy rather than crying out for those who are hurting.”

### **What is the “social issue” that God has put on your heart?**

- **Francis Chan** – “There is something so beautiful and powerful about a group of incredibly diverse people uniting under a common banner. It shows the world that our common obsession with the worth of our King is more powerful than any social,

political, culture, or economic divide. It shows them a picture of Heaven.”

- **Martin Luther King Jr.** – “If you can’t fly, then run. If you can’t run, then walk. If you can’t walk, then crawl. But whatever you do, keep moving forward.”

**Realize those who are “deconstructing” are not all the same. Let’s not lump everyone into the same camp.**

- Example: Lecrae’s Twitter Thread

## **Applications + Questions for Those Deconstructing**

**Are you willing to acknowledge where the church is doing well?**

**If your issue is with the Church, have you considered that God has always called the church to act in accordance with His justice and has used people to call the church to repentance? Maybe He wants to use you.**

- **Mark Sayers** – “Holy discontentment is the deep dissatisfaction with the low state of our faith, the church, and the culture.”

**If your issue is with God, have you found a \_\_\_\_\_ that deals with the injustices of the world better than Christianity?**

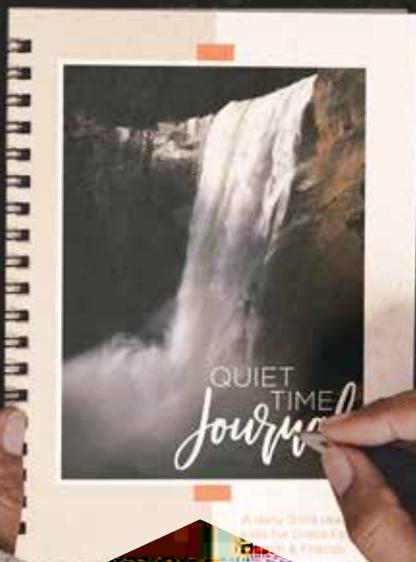
- **C.S. Lewis** – “My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust... But how had I got this idea of *just* and *unjust*?... What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?... Of course, I could have given up this idea of justice by saying it was a private idea of my own. But if I did that, then my argument against God collapsed too—for the argument depended on saying that the world was really unjust, not simply that it did not happen to please my private fancies... Consequently, atheism turns out to be too simple.”

## **RESOURCES**

- Jim Leggett, “*Color Brave*” (Brave Sermon Series) – 3/7/21
- *The Loud Absence: Where is God in Suffering?* | John Lennox at Harvard Medical School (YouTube)
- *Alternative to Futility* – Elton Trueblood
- *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* – Frederick Douglass
- *Until Unity* – Francis Chan
- *Kingdom Race Theology* – Tony Evans
- *Reappearing Church* – Mark Sayers
- *Mere Christianity* – CS Lewis
- *Letter from Birmingham Jail* – Martin Luther King Jr.

# Our Gift to You!

Quiet Time Journals are a practical way to listen, talk and know God



Don't forget to grab yours after both services on December 4

HAPPY  
*thanksgiving*  
CELEBRATE GOD'S BLESSINGS

Church Office will be closed November 24  
in observance of the Holiday

# Adult Ministries

## Care

**Anonymous Angels**—Each year at Thanksgiving and Christmas, this ministry blesses families in need. Call the Care Ministry at 281-646-1903 or find one of our team members in the lobby to learn more about this opportunity to bless others.

### Ongoing Registration for all Care Ministries:

Dealing with divorce? **DivorceCare**

Missing someone who has passed? **GriefShare**

Wanting a better marriage? **Marriage Matters**

Seeking financial freedom? **Financial Peace University**

Wanting to parent God's way? **Parenting with Grace**

Caught in a cycle of addiction? **Free Indeed**

Care Ministry would be honored to walk alongside you during this season. For more information and ongoing registration, visit [WhatsIsGrace.org/Care](http://WhatsIsGrace.org/Care) or call 281.646.1903.

**Need confidential care? Contact Care Pastor Cindi Lomax at [CLomax@WhatsIsGrace.org](mailto:CLomax@WhatsIsGrace.org).**

## Missions

**2023 Mission Trips:** Registration is now open.

**Garden of Grace:** Serving Day on December 3.

Learn more at [WhatsIsGrace.org/Missions](http://WhatsIsGrace.org/Missions).

## Prayer

**Healing Prayer on Nov. 27, 10:30AM—12:30PM:**

No appointments are needed. Just come into the Prayer Center.

**24hr Burn, Dec. 2—3:** 24 hours of non-stop prayer and worship in our prayer center facilitated by the Body of Christ in Katy. Come worship and pray freely as you can.

**Hour of Prayer:** With your prayers, we are working towards our lifetime goal of 24/7 prayer and worship. Please visit [WhatsIsGrace.org/Prayer](http://WhatsIsGrace.org/Prayer) to learn more and register.

**Prayer Line:** (281) 398-2GOD

**Online Prayer:** [WhatsIsGrace.org/Prayer-Wall](http://WhatsIsGrace.org/Prayer-Wall)

## Spiritual Formation

**Say YES to growth and community:** Join one of our Spiritual Formation Groups!

- Alpha
- Be the Bridge
- Emotionally Healthy Spirituality
- ibloom
- Men/Women's Bible Study
- Small Groups throughout the Katy area

Visit [WhatsIsGrace.org/SpiritualFormation](http://WhatsIsGrace.org/SpiritualFormation) for more information and to register. If you have questions, email us at [GraceGroups@WhatsIsGrace.org](mailto:GraceGroups@WhatsIsGrace.org).

# Kids Ministry

**Special Needs Family Christmas Party on Dec. 10 from 3—5PM on The Porch:** We welcome the entire family of our special needs students to join us for a fun-filled Christmas Party. Please contact Katina at [KYeargain@WhatsIsGrace.org](mailto:KYeargain@WhatsIsGrace.org) for more details.

# Student Ministry

**High School Friendsgiving!** HS Sunday Night will leave the building this Sunday and have Friendsgiving inside the homes of some students/leaders! If you haven't received the email with addresses, reach out to Jordan at [JHerrera@WhatsIsGrace.org](mailto:JHerrera@WhatsIsGrace.org).

**No small groups this week!** Small groups will not meet the week of Thanksgiving. Groups will return on Nov. 28. For more information about Student small groups, visit [WhatsIsGrace.org/Students](http://WhatsIsGrace.org/Students).

# Get Connected

**Connecting at Grace:** Whether you're new to Grace Fellowship or have been coming for years, Connecting at Grace is the place to find out more about Grace Fellowship and get connected. **You will find a place to belong, grow, and serve!** Learn more and register for the next sessions at [WhatsIsGrace.org/GetConnected](http://WhatsIsGrace.org/GetConnected).

# Get Involved

**Help us build our Online Ministry!** Our Online community is growing and we're looking for more volunteers. If you are interested in serving with us, please email Ben Chai at [BChai@WhatsIsGrace.org](mailto:BChai@WhatsIsGrace.org) for more information.

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 Grace Fellowship Church

 @GFKatyTX

**Download our App and stay connected!**

 **WhatsIsGrace**

