

Understanding and Responding to Deconstruction and Exvangelicals

A growing number of once-committed Christians are questioning their faith, leaving the church, and even identifying themselves as “exvangelical.” Why are they walking away and what can we do about it? This session unpacks the faith deconstruction movement, provides a biblical analysis, and suggests ways Christian leaders can respond.

Kristi Mair teaches philosophy, ethics, and apologetics at Oak Hill College in London, UK, where she also provides pastoral support for female students. She holds a degree in philosophy and theology, as well as an MA in philosophy of religion and ethics. She is currently working on her PhD in the area of epistemology in philosophical theology, with a particular focus on Michael Polanyi, Esther Meek, and Augustine. Kristi worked for 8 years with a campus-based ministry in the UK (UCCF), and she continues to speak regularly at mission weeks and events across Europe. Kristi has a heart for engaging people with the message of Jesus, developing a Christian mind, and raising the next generation of apologists to live out our calling as disciples to love God and our neighbour. Kristi is the author of *MORE > Truth* (IVP, 2019), Co-editor of *Healthy Faith* (IVP, 2020), a board member and speaker for Chrysolis, and an itinerant SOLAS Associate Speaker.

1. Dismantling Deconstruction

- a. Jacques Derrida
- b. Jamin Hübner

2. Dismantling Evangelical Deconstruction

- a. Dismantling Experiences
 - i. David Kinnaman’s 6 most common criticisms
- b. Dismantling Doctrines
 - i. Scripture’s reliability
 - ii. Science and the Bible
 - iii. God of the Old Testament
 - iv. Hell
- c. Dismantling Christianity:
 - i. Disagreement with specific Christian teachings
 - ii. Discomfort with the culture of church
 - iii. Bad experiences with other Christians

3. The impact of Spiritual Abuse and Church Scandals

4. Constructive deconstruction

5. Responding to deconstruction (*Philippians 1:9-11; 1 Thess. 2:8; Colossians 1*)

- a. Language
- b. Questions
- c. Community
- d. Patience