



UNPACKING FAITH

Romans 12:1-2

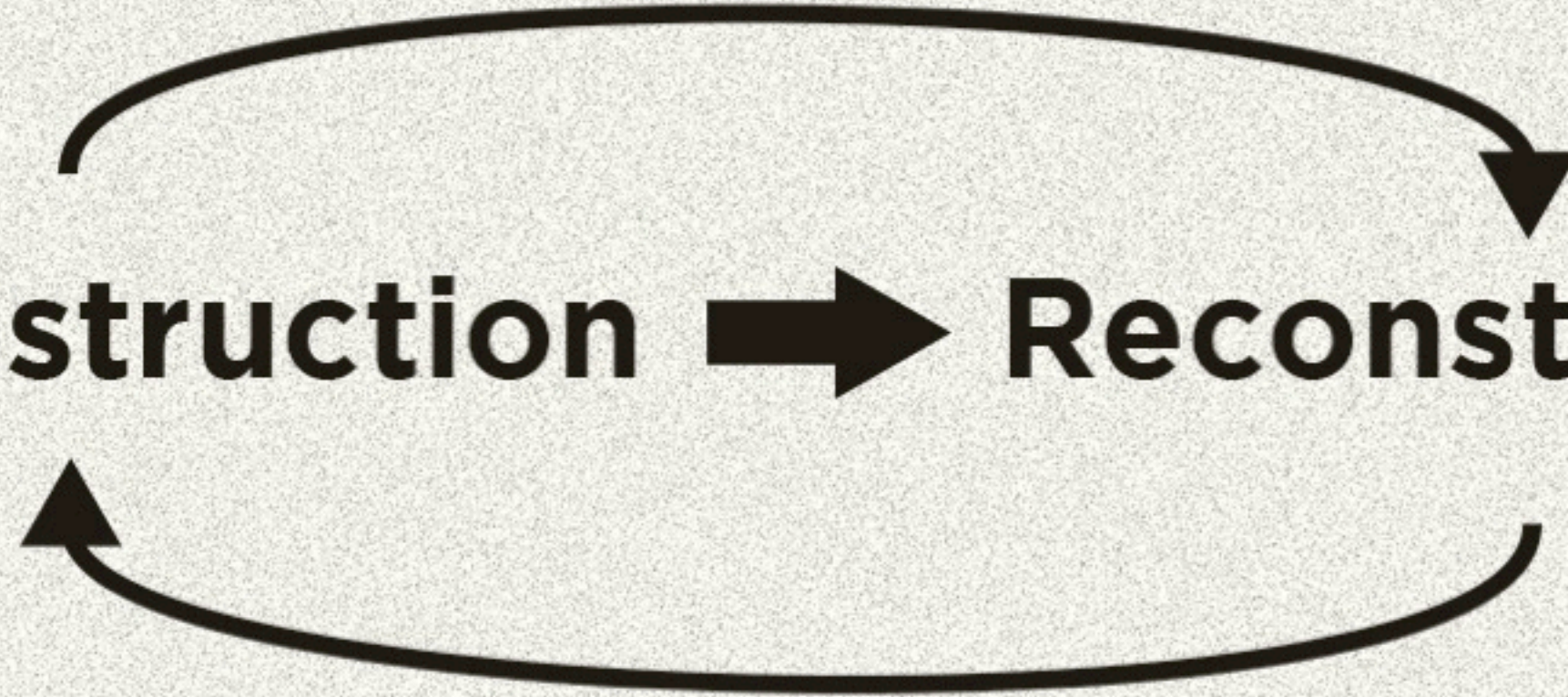
And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Phase 1

Phase 2

Phase 3

Construction ➔ **Deconstruction** ➔ **Reconstruction**





What makes humans different than other living organisms is that, by nature, we must find a larger story to live into that explains our existence, purpose, meaning, morality, destiny, and more.



“We not only continue to be animals who make stories but also animals who are made by our stories. We tell and retell narratives that themselves come fundamentally to constitute and direct our lives.”

**-Christian Smith,
Moral Believing Animals**

The American Experiment Narrative
The Militant Islamic Resurgence Narrative
The Capitalist Prosperity Narrative
The Progressive Socialism Narrative
The Scientific Enlightenment Narrative
The Expressive Romantic Narrative
The Christian Narrative



The stories we believe make and break our lives,
because they give us our answers to the big
questions and realities of human life.

- Human Origins
- Purpose
- Destiny
- Morality
- Human Worth
- Human Nature
- Sin
- Salvation
- Authority
- Power
- Wealth

- Work
- Family
- Gender
- Sex
- Love
- Community
- Suffering
- Meaning
- Death
- Life After Death





Most people deconstruct because they find a specific kind of Christianity damaging or a specific aspect of Christianity difficult, not because they find something else more intellectually convincing and emotionally invigorating.



While the Bible may be difficult at places, while Christians may have harmed or disappointed me at times, while Christianity may make little cultural sense at points, and while there may be no such thing as a perfect church, the Christian story still makes more sense of life than any other story I've encountered.

The Story of Popular Culture

Human Origins

Purpose

Destiny

Morality

Human Worth

Human Nature

Sin

Salvation

Authority

Power/Wealth

Work

Family

Gender

Sex

Love

Community

Suffering

Meaning

Death

Life After Death



The Story of Popular Culture

Is it a true story?

Is there a better story?

Is there a story more in tune
with reality?



The Way of Jesus

Human Origins

Purpose

Destiny

Morality

Human Worth

Human Nature

Sin

Salvation

Authority

Power/Wealth

Work

Family

Gender

Sex

Love

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Genesis 1:27-28

So God created humankind in His image,
in the image of God He created them;
male and female He created them.
God blessed them, and God said to them,
“Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and
subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of
the sea and over the birds of the air and over
every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

Matthew 19:4-6

“Haven’t you read the Scriptures?” Jesus replied. “They record that from the beginning ‘God made them male and female.’ And He said, ‘This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.’ Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.”

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If any of you wants to be My follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow Me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for My sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?”

He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of **the Way** he found there. **Acts 9:2**

John 10:10-11

“The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd sacrifices His life for the sheep.”

Luke 12:31-32

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and He will give you everything you need. So don’t be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom.”

Romans 12:1-2

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