

How to determine if someone has left the faith due to intellectual reasons or other reasons:

- Do their questions have reasonable answers?
- How hard is it to find those reasonable answers?
- What is their response when reasonable answers are presented?
- What does their response reveal about the current authority governing their life?

Due to cognitive bias, we will naturally gravitate toward information that affirms our existing viewpoint, or the viewpoint we desire to hold.

Being a seeker of truth means _____
the truth (*through reading, research, examining the evidence on both sides, etc.*).

Reasons people deconstruct their Christian faith:

- 1) A Christian, a group of Christians, or a church misrepresenting Jesus.

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven..." - Matthew 7:21 (Jesus speaking)

- 2) We don't like being at odds with the culture.
- 3) We want to live our lives in a way that is *incompatible* with the teachings of Jesus.

And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

- John 3:19-20

Things that pave the way for future deconstruction:

- The false teaching that a blessed life is an easy life.
- The false teaching that sin is not a major daily issue in the life of the believer.
- Viewing pastors, teachers, and other ministry leaders as something more than human.
- A lack of familiarity with popular arguments against the Christian faith.
- Not being taught that doubts are OK, and some questions take time to answer.
- Making *non-essentials* of the faith into *essentials*.
- Not being taught how to study the Bible.
- Legalism instead of Biblical grace.
- The false teaching that feelings and emotions are reliable indicators of truth.

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked..." - Jeremiah 17:9

Recommended Apologetics Resources:

"The Story of Reality" by Greg Koukl (book)
"The Reason for God" by Tim Keller (book)
J. Warner Wallace // ColdCaseChristianity.com
Frank Turek // CrossExamined.org
Alisa Childers // AlisaChilders.com
Sean McDowell // SeanMcDowell.org
William Lane Craig // ReasonableFaith.org
GotQuestions.org