

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Deconstruction: A Doubter's Journey

Week 5: Becoming New & Improved April 2, 2023

John 21:18-22

(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

Deconstruction is a journey where we unpack, rethink, and examine our belief system. Wise, purposeful deconstruction can be healthy, but deconstruction with no reconstruction often leads us down a dark path. This week, we'll discuss how comparison in our spiritual lives can rip away our joy and impact our faith.

Kicking It Off:

Jeff spoke of sometimes purchasing things simply to impress others. If you had \$1,000 to burn, what's one thing you would buy in order to try and impress other people?

Discussion:

1. Jeff shared how at times comparison can cause us to question God's love, His justice, and His fairness. What else would you add to this list that we often tend to doubt?
2. Read John 21:18. What is noteworthy about this verse? Why do you think Jesus addressed the way in which Peter would die?

"Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go."

3. Jeff explained how when we stop comparing ourselves to others, we can gain three things. The first is **beauty**. What does "finding beauty in our own story" entail? What might happen if everyone took their eyes off themselves and turned them upon Jesus like the old hymn encourages us to do?
4. The second thing we can gain (when we stop comparing) is **joy** in our own story. What insights do we see regarding joy in James 1:2-3? What's one example from your life where you chose to find joy — once you quit comparing your situation to someone else's?

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance."

5. The third thing to gain upon "pitching comparison" out the window is being **grateful** for God's grace. Think of a situation where you struggled with comparison initially but in the end could find yourself more grateful for the way God walked you through some difficult circumstances. If you're comfortable, share that with the group.

Wrapping Up:

Some people face more struggles than others. Some are richer, more attractive, healthier, smarter, and more spiritually mature than other people. But God sees the potential He placed in each of us, and He expects a return on that investment. Pray your group members will give God glory for utilizing the gifts He's given you.