**Study Guide**

***A Church Dismantled—A Kingdom Restored: Why is God Taking Apart the Church?***

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Week 1

Reading: Introduction through Chapter Nine

Questions:

1. How have you seen the broader church change over your lifetime? How about your local congregation(s)?
2. How has Conrad’s thesis that God’s Spirit is behind the dismantling of the church affected your perspective of today’s church?
3. What Scriptures does Conrad lean upon in his writing? Can you think of others that are relevant?
4. Why do you think Conrad experienced the spiritual and personal transformation that he did so in the midst of his writing? What transformational experiences have you had, and how do you understand why they occurred when and how they do so?
5. What did Conrad share that you most connected with either at the level of your church experience or in your personal view or experience of God?
6. What is one question you would like to ask Conrad?

Week 2

Reading: Chapters Ten through Sixteen

Questions:

1. Conrad confronts the trauma he experienced as a child at church revivals. What might be the reason that he so confronts these memories in this book? What did you feel as you read “Just as I am for the Great I Am? What do you remember of those revivals?
2. What do you think was the purpose of the revivals? Did they strengthen the church or contribute to its dismantling or neither?
3. How is the racism of today’s society similar or different from the sins of God’s Old Testament people? Why is the church the one institution that remains most divided by race?
4. What falsehoods does Conrad see in the church that have become “taken for granted realities” to us but that get in the way of Jesus?
5. What have you seen the church leave behind or discard that you think was helpful and what was left behind that was a mistake?

Week 3

Reading: Chapters Seventeen through Twenty-three

Questions:

1. How was Conrad’s presentation of the Gospel different than the way you’ve heard it before? How does Conrad describe what the Gospel is? What is your response to what your read?
2. How did Conrad’s view of grace change over time and how did it impact his life? How has it affected the way he sees God? How he sees the world? How does his view and experience of grace challenge or resonate with you?
3. Sometimes folks suggest that a secular academic environment must be difficult for a Christian to be part of. What do you hear from Conrad that suggests this may not be the case?
4. Why do you think that as Conrad wrote over the course of the pandemic he became more uncomfortable in the church and comfortable in the world?

Week 4

Reading: Twenty-eight through Thirty-Three

Questions:

1. What is your response to Conrad’s description of his experience with Parkinson’s Disease and suffering in general?
2. Why is suffering our best teacher? What has suffering taught you?
3. How has Conrad experienced God in his experience of PD? What about your during crises and difficulties?
4. In what way is Conrad’s dismantling through PD helpful in the way he has come to understand the dismantling of the church?
5. What has been most important to you about this study of A Church Dismantled?

Would you be willing to write a review of the book and place on Amazon or Good Reads? Thank you for considering and visit [www.achurchdismantled](http://www.achurchdismantled) to subscribe to Conrad’s blog post.

Week 2

Week 3

Week 4