

LIVE YOUR TRUTH (AND OTHER LIES)

Alisa Childers is the author of *Another Gospel?* —a book in which she describes the years-long journey she took as she wrestled with questions that struck at the core of the Christian faith and found the truth. She is a wife, mom, author, podcaster, blogger, and speaker. Childers was a member of the award-winning Contemporary Christian Music recording group ZOEgirl. She is currently a respected speaker at apologetics and Christian worldview conferences, as well as the host of her popular YouTube channel. You can connect with Childers online at alisachilders.com.

One of the biggest takeaways from deconstruction as seen in her life is that cultural lies can make us vulnerable if we do not think critically about them. “I think there's one thing about that experience that made me vulnerable to that time of just nearly losing my faith. I had begun to adopt some of the cultural ideas that I just wasn't thinking through really deeply. I wasn't taking them to scripture.”

Lie #1 – You are Enough

We see this message everywhere from people who call themselves Christians to coffee mugs to children's books that are being marketed as Christian resources. Rachel Hollis wrote in *Girl Wash Your Face* that the summary of the Gospel is as follows: “I studied the Gospel and finally grasped the divine knowledge that I am loved and worthy and enough as I am.”

What is under this lie?

The phrase “I am enough” is based on the idea humans, people are good, you're perfect just as you are, and there's nothing outside of yourself that you need. We are not – we are inclined to sin. We have a sin nature.

“The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.” Psalm 14:2-3 ESV

Some say that when Christians tell you you're a sinner that it's toxic theology. “But if you just take away one thing from this entire talk today remember this, it's only toxic if it's not true.” If sinful nature is true, then we are not enough. We need Jesus.

God's wrath is different from human wrath. God's wrath means that people cannot get away with sin. Jesus offered forgiveness of sin for us. “You're not enough, but Jesus is enough. When you trust in him his enoughness gets put on you so that when God looks at you, he sees the

enoughness of Jesus. Isn't that good news? That is good news when you know that the diagnosis is true."

Lie #2 – Authenticity is Everything

In the past speaking the word authenticity or authentic just meant being genuine and not being fake. Christians should be genuine and not fake. But that's not what culture is talking about. Culture says this lie based on the belief that everyone is good. It says to dig down and find what our desires, hopes, and dreams are and to live that out authentically.

Berne Brown says, "True belonging is the spiritual practice of believing in and belonging to yourself so deeply that you can share your most authentic self with the world ... True belonging doesn't require you to change who you are."

What under this lie?

This belief only works if what you're going to find inside yourself is all good. One look at the world shows this is not the case; we need to be saved.

Some say it's toxic that God required the blood sacrifice of his only son. This makes God immoral in the eyes of some people. It's only toxic if Jesus was unwilling and if He wasn't God. God knew there wasn't a worthy sacrifice, so gave his son. Jesus sacrificed Himself on the cross so that all that love Him can be in His presence forever.

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:8-9

The Rachel Hollis quote presupposes that we don't need to be changed. The truth is we come to Christ as we are, and the Holy Spirit is the one who institutes that change in us.

In the Bible, authenticity isn't everything. Holiness is everything. God is holiness himself. His holiness means he cannot be unified with sin because He is morally perfect. "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

Lie #3 – Live Your Truth

If humans are good and live authentically, then they can live their truth. Glennon Doyle – author of *Untamed* – writes about her decision to leave her husband and marry Abby Wambach. She said, "What the world needs – in order to grow, in order to relax, in order to find peace, in order to become brave – is to watch one woman at a time live her truth." In her book, she says if you don't affirm that then you don't have love. You must choose between your religion and loving her.

What's behind the lie?

On a logical level 'live your truth' doesn't work because society does not want Christians to live their truth.

The Bible says that love cannot rejoice in wrongdoing, but love rejoices in the truth. According to Scripture, it's not loving to affirm something sinful or harmful about another person.

Truth is not relative. Christianity is not like ice cream where you get to pick your flavor. We don't get to pick and choose what we think is true. If Christianity is true, it's true for everyone and has eternal consequences for everyone whether they believe it or not.

Apostle Paul spoke about the fragrance of the knowledge of Christ. The Gospel has a smell. To those who are being saved, it smells like life. To those perishing, it smells like death. Our job is to spread the fragrance of life, hope, and peace.

"There's no middle ground anymore. You're going to smell like life to some and death to others because you have the truth. What you can share with them is the message of eternal life, putting trust in Jesus Christ as your savior."

Questions to Consider

1. Is truth determined by you, or is it something you discover outside of yourself?
2. Have you heard the word *deconstruction* in the context of faith? If so, do you think it's generally a healthy thing or an unhealthy thing?
3. What is a common cultural lie you encounter in your everyday life?