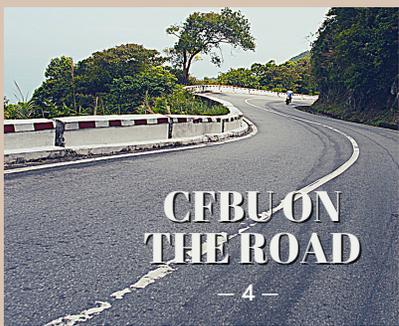




THE CENTER
FOR BIBLICAL
UNITY

IMAGO DEI

Quarterly Newsletter



Dear Family,

Over the last few days, I've been reflecting on what it means to be courageous. We are instructed numerous times in the Scriptures to be courageous or to "be of good courage."

- *Whether the land is rich or poor; and whether there are forests there or not. Be of good courage. (Numbers 13:20a)*
- *Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you. (Deuteronomy 31:6)*
- *Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9b)*

Biblical courage means to be bold, confident, and maintain a cheerful countenance, even in the face of difficulty. The believer's posture during times of trial is one of strength and trust in the Lord.

If I'm honest, this disposition isn't easy for me. I tend to overthink, worry, and I often struggle with fear of the unknown.

Perhaps you can relate.

Chaos seems to be everywhere. Threats of war. Secular ideologies creeping into churches and dividing congregations. Young people abandoning their faith. Leaders quiet while heresy is spoken from pulpits. Not to mention the chaos in many of our personal lives. What's happening around us can be discouraging.

I get discouraged.

But recently, I had a very encouraging call with a local pastor that I want to share with you. He shared a story of how his church was taking a stand against their denomination's drift toward progressivism. He had been troubled by how this once strong, and biblically faithful denomination, was now regularly licensing unqualified ministers, some of whom were living in active sexual sin. He called on top leadership to confront the problem. But nothing changed.

So, he submitted his church's withdrawal from the denomination.

~Continued on Page 3~

Family

BRINGING IT OFF CODE

Feature



Monique and co-host Kevin Briggins are launching The Off Code Podcast. Here Monique and Kevin share their thoughts and plans for Off Code.

We created Off Code to inspire and encourage a more complete dialogue on issues within the black community. Blacks are only 13% of the population, but we rank in some of the highest percentages when it comes to violence, fatherlessness, and abortion and often find ourselves at the forefront of many political and social discussions in our country. Our goal is to shine a light on these issues, to understand the dynamics within many black communities that are contributing to these social issues.

Off Code is controversial because “we’re putting our business in the street.” The black cultural code is that we do not talk about our very real and serious internal community issues in “mixed company” (ie: white people) or the public. Our public discourse centers around issues of race and racism, or external political or social dynamics, like voting/voter rights or entertainment.

A one-sided narrative is formed when conversations focus solely on what has happened to us and not on how we participate in many of our own struggles and limitations. A failure to place our own actions and communities under a microscope, to understand our own pitfalls, means that we will always be at the mercy of outside forces: racism, disparities, etc. (This is how we end up with whiteness being blamed for everything!) This disempowers the black community and takes away our human agency.

If these issues are all the result of outside forces, like whiteness, then that means we are at the mercy of those same outside forces to bring change to our homes and communities. We become reliant on political and social structures and become independent and unaware of our need for a Savior.

Off Code will take the bold step and break the cultural codes that keep many in cycles of hopelessness, despair, and dependency. We’ll share insight and resources that can help move us all toward hope and empowerment, knowing that the ills we face as a community are largely in our control to solve and overcome.

While we are focusing on issues impacting black people, this podcast is for everyone. Come hang out with us, listen, and share your thoughts. We are family!



Introducing The Monthly Partners Hub

Because we appreciate you, we created a special one-stop hub for you, CFBU's Monthly Partners! This hub includes easy access to our special Monthly Partner Videos, our Member Exclusive Quarterly Newsletter, virtual Monthly Coffee Hour with Monique and Krista, and assistance with donation questions. Check out this new space designed just for you and let us know what you think!

Subscribe



CFBU has an exciting new podcast featuring Monique Duson and Kevin Briggins. Together they have real conversations about challenges in the Black community and ways to move forward. Subscribe to CFBU on YouTube to not miss an episode.

Thank you, family, for all you do to support the ministry!

Family, your partnership with us makes it possible for CFBU to keep impacting lives and encouraging and equipping the Church to engage well with culture. We recently received this sweet note from one friend of the ministry:



RA

Rachael A.

"As an LCSW and a police wife, CFBU has been an invaluable resource to have informed conversations with people. I have several challenging family members and friends I felt more equipped to engage with. It has helped me understand practical biblical justice in a way I never did before. Thank you guys so much!"

Our podcasts are also serving an important role in equipping our listeners with practical tools and biblical discernment. Read what listeners had to say about our Orange Curriculum superstream with Natasha Crain and Alisa Childers and about our podcasts with guests Ryan Bomberger and Marcus Robinson.

"I'm just so glad for ministries [like CFBU] to help parents and churches be aware of bad theology creeping into our churches. Up until a few years ago I had no idea the depth and breadth of it."

-Becky G.

"I sooo appreciate how you roll everything back to scripture. Thank you! Love you guys and what you are doing!"

-Matthew H.

"I... just wanted to say, as an adoption social worker, I really appreciated the podcast with Ryan Bomberger. I plan to share that podcast as encouragement to adoptive families (and many who are just friends of mine as I've seen CRT impact their families). The podcast was so full of biblical truth and encouragement and so needed!!!"

-CFBU Listener

Continued from Page 1

Denominational leaders quickly reached out to him, offering him a new building and other monetary promises. Although these offers were tempting, he refused. His response is still ringing in my ears; "This is God's church. And we will trust the Lord."

This pastor doesn't know all of the answers about what the future will look like for his congregation. What he does know is that he cannot lead his congregation hitched to a denomination that is engaging in practices antithetical to the historic Christian faith.

As he retold his story, he was confident, bold, enthusiastic, and hopeful! He was courageous. And his courage was contagious!

"We will trust the Lord."

Family, we live in a moment that requires great biblical courage. If we want to pass on the historic Christian faith to the next generation, we must stand courageous **today**. Speak out against secular ideologies when they are taught at your church. Investigate the curriculum being taught in

children's and youth ministry. Research the keynote speakers at conferences **before** you attend. Pastors, if your denomination is supporting the LGBTQ+ agenda or the critical social theories, consider how you will courageously lead your congregation. If your denomination's commitment to errant theology remains, perhaps it is time for you to consider parting ways with your denomination. Churches need pastors and leaders, parents and grandparents, singles and widows who are committed to biblical courage. Your courage will encourage others to do the same. Now is the time for the church to rise up and be courageous. We can do this together!

Praying that you are strengthened and remain courageous.

Blessings,
Monique Duson



C. Monique Duson
Founder and President
The Center for Biblical Unity

ORANGE COUNTY, DALLAS & PHILLY!

Monique and Krista have had a busy quarter on the road! Monique and CFBU advisor Thaddeus Williams had the opportunity to equip our brothers and sisters together in Orange County at the Maven Conference on March 18-19. Monique and Thaddeus spoke to attendees about how to adopt a biblical approach to addressing racial tensions.

Check out the
livestream of
Monique and
Thaddeus here



Also this quarter, Monique and an all-star team of apologists brought clarity to culture to an audience of teens and young adults at two Reality: Chaos to Clarity conferences in Dallas (February 25-26) and in Philadelphia (March 25-26).



You can also watch the
livestream Monique's
presentation here.



Monique helped youth examine cultural conversations through the lens of the Bible and the context of family in her presentation "Bringing Clarity to Race." The conference host organization Stand to Reason has asked Monique to speak during each of their 2022 conferences, so check out their [upcoming conferences](#) to see if there's one coming to a city near you!



HEARTS & TIME

No matter what, children will be disciplined, and they will learn a worldview. The question becomes who is doing the discipling and what worldview are they learning? Wherever their attention is most captured (school, social media, friend groups), that is where they are learning.



#UP2021

"DISCIPLES WILL BE MADE.
WHERE ARE YOUR KIDS SPENDING
MOST OF THEIR TIME?
WHEREVER THEY ARE SPENDING THEIR
TIME IS WHERE THEY ARE BEING
disciplined."

Abraham Hamilton III