



THE CENTER
FOR BIBLICAL
UNITY

IMAGGO DEI

Quarterly Newsletter



FAMILY FEATURE

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IMPACT STORY

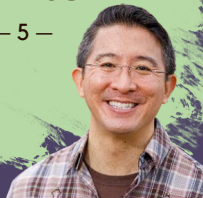
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CFBU ON THE ROAD

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WALKING IN TRUTH

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Happy New Year, family!

I am excited to enter a new year with you by our side. Thank you for supporting this ministry and sharing our hope for unity through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Krista and I are deployed to serve the body of Christ because of your support. Thank you!

In this year’s newsletters, I will share an aspect of the Center for Biblical Unity’s model for unity:

- **Creation identity:** *Our identity as people made in God's image*
- **Salvation identity:** *Our identity as children of God*
- **Matters of providence:** *The time and place in which God has uniquely situated us*
- **Walking in unity:** *The way we walk in this world as people united with all humans through a shared identity (the image of God) and flawed sin nature, but whose new identity (children of God) separates us as God's chosen people*

*My aim is to equip you to have productive conversations about unity with your family and friends this year. Let’s start with the first part of our model: **creation identity**.*

God’s good and intentional design for humans in Genesis gives us our first glimpse of unity as humans:

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’” (Gen. 1:27-28 ESV)

God’s creativity and splendor were on full display! He created and breathed life into the first human pair, Adam and Eve. Not only were they distinctly different from every other animal in form and feature, but they were created in the image of God and given distinct responsibilities as God’s creation.

While many in the culture, and even some in the church, seek to separate us into our “intersectional buckets,” Scripture clearly shows that humanity’s fundamental unity starts with Adam and Eve. Our creation identity is the true foundation of unity between all people. This truth means we all have equal dignity, value, and worth. What God spoke over the first humans at their creation still rings true about humans today. We are created in His image.

Genesis 3 shows us the first humans’ sin—their rebellion and separation from God. This sinful state has been passed down to all humans, and Paul reminds us that all have sinned (Romans 3:23). We all have equal dignity, and we are all equally flawed. As our culture seeks to race-bait and divide humanity, resist the call to blame and divide. Hold on to the reality that the person who may disagree with you is created in the image of God and has dignity, value, and worth. Just like you.

Monique Dison
Founder and President
The Center for Biblical Unity

Family

Feature

EXPOSING CRITICAL THEORY

With Neil Shenvi



If you saw him playing Nintendo Super Smash Bros. with his sons, the first words to come to mind probably wouldn't be "Critical Race Theory." But Dr. Neil Shenvi—homeschool dad, theoretical chemist, Christian apologist, and recreational mathematics enthusiast—is probably best known in evangelical circles for exposing the critical theories' growing influence on evangelical churches, institutions, and influencers.

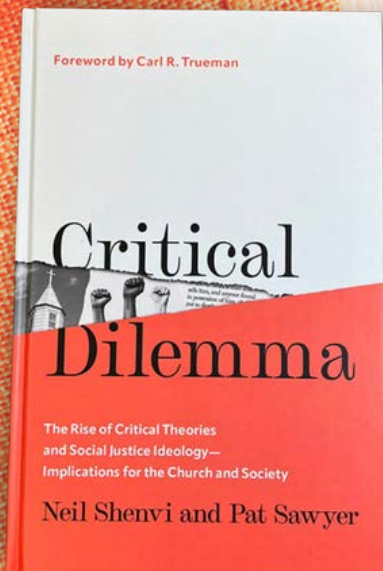
Neil gave his first public talk on critical theory in November 2018. Shortly after that, Krista found his writings on the topic and invited him onto her *Theology Mom* podcast. Last year, Neil joined CFBU's Academic Advisory Council—a true blessing to CFBU due to his years of extensive research on the critical theories.

In October 2023, Neil and his coauthor, Dr. Pat Sawyer, released their groundbreaking book *Critical Dilemma: The Rise of Critical Theories and Social Justice Ideology* as "the go-to definitive source for evangelicals" who want to understand the critical theories, why these theories are incompatible with the gospel, and how to respond as Christians. Neil and Pat's book was featured in a CFBU book club led by Kevin Briggins this past fall.

In addition to warning Christians about the dangers of adopting critical theories as a framework for addressing injustices, Neil cautions against the tendency to pendulum-swing into other serious errors.

"I've been aware of how there really are errors on both sides," Neil said. "Racism is still an issue in the culture and in the church."

In attempting to push back against the real danger presented by critical theories, Neil explained that some people are embracing "some really dark stuff." It's important, though, not to reject critical theory simply because it's against our personal tribe. "Reject critical theory because it's contrary to Christianity. Reject racism and misogyny because [they're] contrary to Christianity," Neil said. "We are Christ's people, and we respond in a Christian way to these threats."



We'd love your input!

Our monthly partners' feedback means a lot to us. Please take this short survey to let us know what content blesses you most and how we can better serve you in 2024!



Access to Survey



Impact

A WEBINAR TOUCHES HEARTS

Story

In a November 20 webinar with the Colson Center, Monique and Krista discussed their story, introduced viewers to the Center for Biblical Unity, explained race and Critical Race Theory, and addressed the question of whether churches should be multiethnic. They received such kind feedback about the event and hope you will be blessed by it too!

“Should every church be multiethnic?” was so helpful in giving a response to the mishandling of the “every tribe, tongue, nation” verse in Revelation. I’m going to memorize your answers, because it’s such a common response when engaging people.
-Alicia

Really appreciated your discussion and am now following. Thank you for your open and honest conversation and for your generosity of spirit in the Q&A. I also appreciate the intellectual insights for historical context...so many times I hear opinions on this subject without any acknowledgment of where we are historically sitting. Praying for your ministry.
-Amy

I watched the webinar and had not heard of your ministry before. I’m so happy to be introduced to it!!
-Julie

Loved hearing about your backgrounds, friendship, and mission to teach us the biblical message for dealing with current issues. Thank you ladies so much.
-Susie

This is fabulous! So helpful! Listen!!
-Diann

If you’d like to introduce your pastor or friend to the ministry, this Colson Fellows webinar is a great place to start! Check it out here.



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FAST-PACED AUTUMN

CFBU

on the Road

October and November were busy months for Monique and Krista! They attended and presented at some powerful conferences and enjoyed connecting with many members of our CFBU family as well as many new faces. First, they spoke at Southern Evangelical Seminary's Steadfast Apologetics and Evangelism Conference in mid-October. Their breakout session, "The Great Awakening," equipped attendees to evaluate the fundamental ideas of Critical Race Theory and to contrast it with the historic Christian worldview.

In November, Monique and Krista headed to Ohio for the Unshaken Conference, which focused on the battle over truth and authority in a culture of relativism and skepticism. Next, at the Association of Christian Schools International's (ACSI) three-day student leadership conference in Washington, D.C., Monique equipped young spiritual leaders to look to God and His Word for truth. On November 12, Monique and Krista traveled to Fort Worth, Texas, to speak about what the Bible really says about unity, racial reconciliation, and critical theory at the Forge Room Foundation Forum. After meeting with some CFBU family in Fort Worth, they headed to San Antonio for the Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) Annual Meeting.



To hear Monique and Krista's thoughts on the ETS conference in this recap video, click below.



ETS Conference

Walking

in Truth

CREATION IDENTITY: God Made Us Male and Female

As Christians, our identity is based on how God defines us, not on how our fallen culture has labeled and divided us. Our creation identity reveals that each one of us is a unique design, created deliberately and lovingly by God to bear His image and accomplish a specific purpose.

One element of that unique design is our biological sex: male or female. Like every other characteristic, biological sex is designed to develop holiness and Christlikeness in each of us, not to define our personhood or control our worldview. During a recent episode of *All The Things*, Monique interviewed Dr. Christopher Yuan, who explained God's design for sexuality. Before coming to faith in Christ, Dr. Yuan lived as a gay man. After he became a Christian, he realized, through his reading of Scripture and the work of the Holy Spirit, that he had to choose either a life of obedience to God's creation design for sex and marriage, or a life as a gay man. In this podcast, Monique and Dr. Yuan examine scriptural teaching on sexuality and holiness and discuss false understandings of sexuality within the church. Dr. Yuan also bridges the gap between creation identity and identity in Christ (the subject of next quarter's newsletter). By choosing to follow Christ, Dr. Yuan said, "My identity is not gay, ex-gay, or even heterosexual because my identity as a child of the living God must be in Jesus Christ alone." Embracing our creation identity, including God's design for sexuality, teaches us to be more like Christ by pursuing holiness.

They also discussed Dr. Yuan's recently released family curriculum, *The Holy Sexuality Project*, which helps Christian parents equip their teenagers to understand what God teaches about biological sex, gender, and sexuality. You can listen to the podcast with Dr. Yuan below.



**Born That Way
Podcast**

Check out
Monique's Quick Take
video on
creation identity



HERE



IDEAS ARE NOT THE SAME AS INDIVIDUALS

Training

Takeaway

Remember: Individual people are created in the image of God and are struggling with sin and its impacts. Many are searching for God, but their minds have been taken captive by cultural beliefs about identity. Some have been so captured by demonic ideas that they scream, politicize, exploit others, and even suppress facts. All of them need the good news that their problems with sin can only be met in Jesus. In your zeal to publicly stand against erroneous ideas, keep in mind that the individuals spouting those ideas still need to hear about God's love, just as you did when you were a mess in your sin.

IDEAS \neq INDIVIDUALS

ROMANS 5:6-8

