



THE CENTER  
FOR BIBLICAL  
**UNITY**

# IMAGO DEI

Quarterly Newsletter

Dear Family,

On my recent trip to South Africa, a professing fellow Christian—who admitted sympathy for the critical social theories—asked me what responsibility white Christians have in righting the historic wrongs of anti-black apartheid and racial injustice within the church. It wasn't lost on me that the lingering effects of apartheid could be seen by just stepping outside.

Before I could respond, a young black African woman spoke up: “Why do you first see me by my skin color and not as your sister in Christ? Why do you think I need or want your help? Why do you see me as helpless?” Her words left the inquirer a bit stunned. Essentially, she was asking to be seen through her salvation identity first.

Our salvation identity is our identity as children of God and our foundation for ethnic unity in the body of Christ. This term should draw our minds and hearts to Scripture's definitions of those who are “in Christ”:

- We are children of God: forgiven and adopted into God's family.
- We are unified through the salvation offered in Christ.
- We are no longer defined by our sinful nature or our past sins.

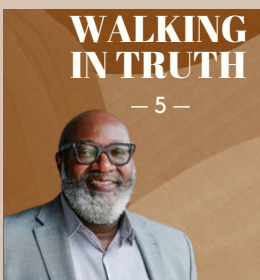
These truths apply to Christians in all times and places, regardless of skin color, socio-economic status, sex, ability, or family heritage. Yet, too often these categories separate us. Paul addressed this in Galatians 3:26-28 when he said, “So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

In Colossians 3:11-14 he repeats this concept and adds these instructions:

“...Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

Prioritizing salvation identity doesn't mean overlooking injustice; it means refusing to define people by past injustice. We are all more than our experiences. Our salvation identity makes this possible. Our salvation identity unites us as family. This reality should cause us to stand with one another, not because we share the same skin color (we don't!), but because we share the same Father.

Monique Dison  
Founder and President  
The Center for Biblical Unity



# A WORLDVIEW TRANSFORMED

CFBU partner Julie Spike first learned about the Center for Biblical Unity in August 2020 after watching Monique's first interview on Allie Beth Stuckey's podcast, *Relatable*. She quickly found CFBU on Facebook and has looked to CFBU for guidance on issues of race and racism ever since.

"I live about 30 minutes from Minneapolis, where George Floyd died," Julie said. "I witnessed the violence and looting in real time on our TV, and the rhetoric put out by our leaders was troubling to me." It was around this time that Julie found CFBU, which had a profound impact on her worldview regarding racial issues. "It motivated me to find a truthful and God-honoring way to look at [these] issues . . . I believe everything we face must be viewed through the lens of Scripture, and CFBU has strengthened my ability to see how Scripture speaks into many areas of life."

Julie loves CFBU's book clubs and the insights she has gained from other participants. She also enjoys CFBU's video content and especially appreciated Krista, Monique, and Kevin's even-handed approach in their recent [Middle East Conflict series](#).

CFBU's resources—together with others from Stand to Reason, Alisa Childers, and Frank Turek—have enriched her life and helped her to understand difficult cultural issues through the lens of Scripture.

One of Julie's favorite things about CFBU is its honesty and humility. "I like how Monique is honest about her journey of sanctification; she admits to being stubborn, but I am not sure being stubborn for the cause of Christ is a bad thing," Julie explained. "I appreciate how Krista is careful not to speak of things outside her lane and brings in others who know more about a subject for an interview. The attitude of humility is very evident."

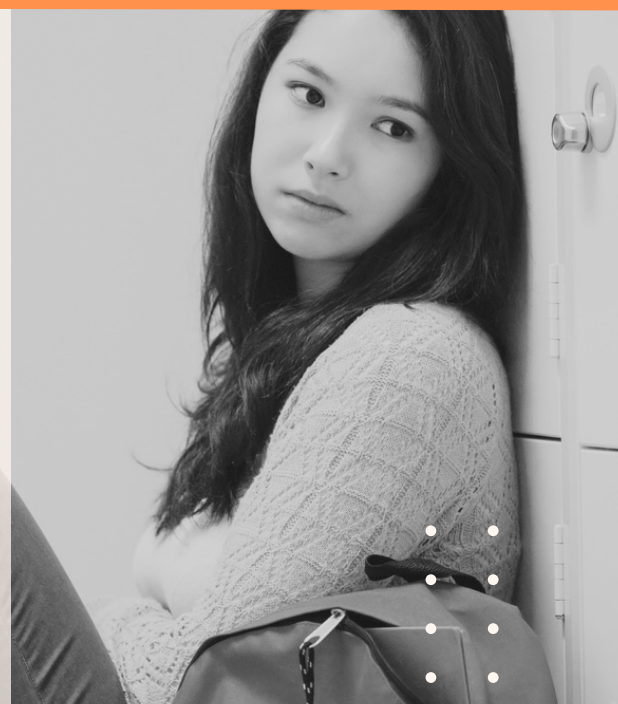


## Parent Facebook Group

Many parents feel confused and alone when children deconstruct their faith or fall into woke theology. CFBU's Parent Support Facebook Group offers prayer and resources to Christian parents as they walk this difficult road.



Access to Group



Impact

Story

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH INSIGHTS

Contemporary culture bases its worldview on individual opinions, personal truths, and lived experiences. Expectations constantly shift, and standards are unreachable. God does not want us to live in this confusion. He gives clear answers to explain our identity, value, and purpose.

To assist believers as they shape their scriptural worldview, CFBU's web articles, social media posts, and podcasts provide timely responses to cultural issues. In her recent article, ["Changing the Narrative on Black History Month,"](#) Monique explains why celebrating Cultural Appreciation Month would be consistent with Scripture as we celebrate that "God's people have been part of a multi-cultural, multiethnic, multilingual global assembly (see Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:8-11)." Monique's article opened up a conversation about healthy cultural appreciation on Facebook and resulted in some encouraging responses from friends of the ministry.



*Used this article yesterday in my weekly cultural engagement discussions with the students in the youth group. It was our launchpad to discuss their experiences in their contexts on the topic of race/ethnicity. My white students are the minority in their primarily Black and Hispanic schools. Thankful for the Center for Biblical Unity, Monique, Kevin, and Theology Mom for their leadership, clarity, and conversations."*

~Stephen

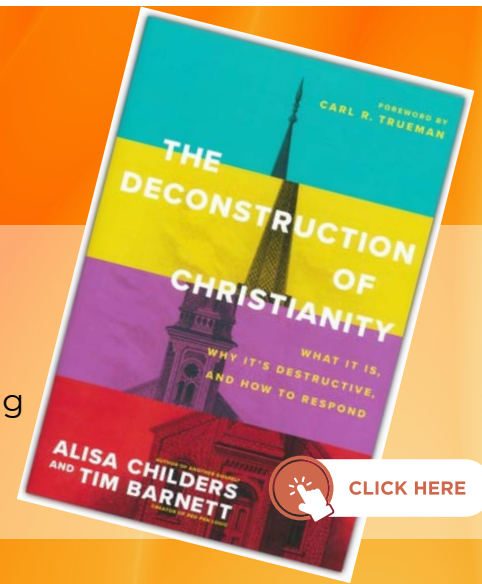


*This is one of the BEST approaches I've read. I understand the importance of the black community (or any minorities) celebrating milestones, customs, or events that were marginalized. We ALL contribute to society, ESPECIALLY within the body of Christ. But church is the place that should unite us, not celebrate one group to the exclusion of other groups. In Christ, we are one body. As Christians, we have to reflect our unity to a world that thrives on division. Thank you!"*

~Katie

## New Resource on Faith Deconstruction

Trying to understand how critical theory leads to faith deconstruction? Check out Alisa Childers and Tim Barnett's new book, *The Deconstruction of Christianity*, as well as [this blog post from CFBU](#). Get equipped to help those struggling with doubt, protect your children from destructive ideologies, and stand for the gospel today.



 CLICK HERE

CFBU

# CFBU GOES GLOBETROTTING

on the Road

The new year brought some exciting opportunities for Monique and Krista. In January, they traveled to Colorado Springs, where Monique and Krista were guests on the Focus on the Family broadcast with Jim Daly. In February, Monique and Krista hosted a booth at the MAVEN Conference in California, supporting MAVEN's goal of highlighting biblical truth as an antidote to cultural confusion.

Monique and Krista had some individual engagements as well this quarter. Krista spoke virtually for the First Baptist Sylacauga's 2024 Women's Conference in February and represented CFBU at the Unshaken Conference in Detroit in March. Meanwhile, Monique traveled to South Africa, where she had several opportunities to speak about biblical unity and salvation identity. Highlights included speaking at youth events, equipping college students at Ratio Christi clubs on the University of Potchefstroom and University of Cape Town campuses, and teaching at a women's apologetics group. Your partnership made it possible for Monique and Krista to bring hope and resources to a variety of venues this quarter. Thank you!

For more details about Monique's trip, listen to [this](#) episode of *All The Things*.



**Racial Unity within the Church**

Speaker: Monique Dumas, Racial Unity Advocate

Cape Town | Monday, 11 March | 18:30 for 20:00  
 Staff Common Room, Wilfred & Jules Kramer Law Building  
 Middle Campus, UCT

**About the Speaker**

Monique has a BA in Sociology from Boise State University and is working on an MA in Public Theology at Birmingham Theological Seminary. She spent two decades advocating for Critical Race Theory (CRT) but through a series of events, began to clearly see the contradictions of CRT with the historic Christian message. Monique is now convinced that CRT is not the best way to advance racial unity and actively speaks out against the use of CRT within the church.

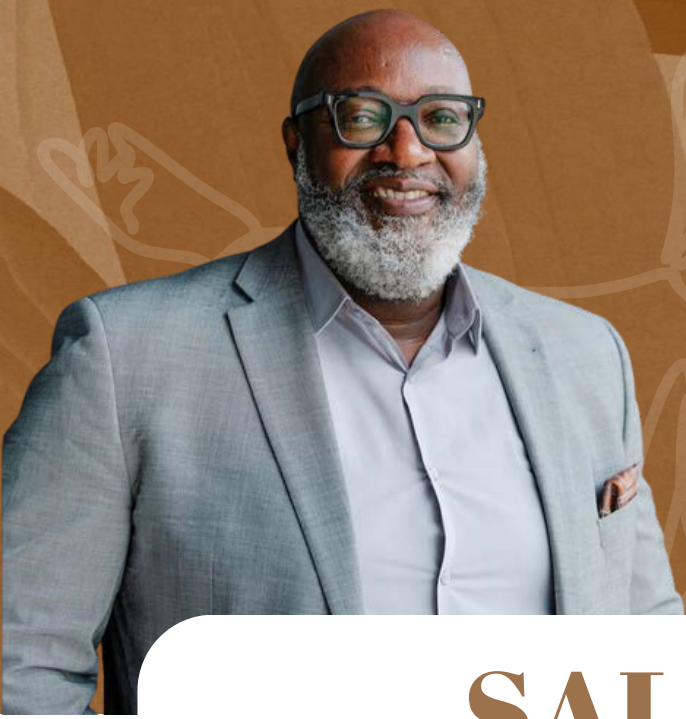


Ratio Christi Youth Event in Cape Town, South Africa

Focus on the Family

MAVEN Conference Booth in California

South Africa Women's Apologetics Conference



Walking

# SALVATION IDENTITY: God Redeems & Transforms Us

in Truth

As Christians, our identity is based in Christ, not in our feelings or our actions. Salvation identity supersedes even immutable characteristics such as ethnicity. Though important, these things are secondary to who Christ declares us to be. While our creation identity establishes us as made in the image of God, *salvation* identity establishes us as children of God. Through Christ, we enter into God’s family as beloved sons and daughters.

One outworking of our salvation identity is transformation. In a 2023 episode of [Off Code](#), Monique and Kevin interviewed Pastor Alton Hardy, who told his story of racial wounds, forgiveness, and healing. Hardy faced shocking workplace discrimination and abuse in 1980s Michigan, leaving him bitter and eventually numb. “I would say that most of my family didn’t experience [what I experienced], but in God’s providence for me, I had a lot of racial things that I couldn’t explain that God allowed to happen to me for a greater purpose.”



Then a personal crisis initiated a heart transformation. “I had a three-year dark night of the soul where all I could say is ‘God, have mercy on me,’” Hardy said. “I felt the weight of my sinfulness like I never felt before.” This conviction led him to grace. “I was so overcome by God’s grace and therefore loving those who had wounded me and hurt me. To be totally honest with you, it was not difficult at all,” Hardy said. “It was an overflow of understanding the grace of God” that enabled him to “forgive and move on and move toward reconciliation.”

Now, as pastor of Urban Hope Community Church, Hardy helps bring transformation to others through discipleship and Christ-based solutions for the urban poor. Because when people encounter Christ, that changes everything.



Check out Monique’s Quick Take video on salvation identity **HERE**

You can read more of Pastor Hardy’s story in his book “Long Is the Way”



Training

# RECONCILED THROUGH THE GOSPEL

Takeaway

God's plan is to take cultural enemies and make them our family. The foundation for this effort was built by God, not by us. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God has created an entirely new people consisting of members from every nation. As we engage in conversations about justice within the church, we need to speak graciously with our brothers and sisters. Keep your salvation identity and theirs in view. Remember that because God reconciled us to himself through Jesus, we are already reconciled to each other.

CRT proposes another truth—one that is based on the presupposition that white people are evil and have all the power in this world. CRT says that I am oppressed.



*Followers of Christ*  
That is wrong!

Brothers and sisters in Christ,  
let Christ, not culture define  
us. Let's reflect on who He is  
and who we are in Him.

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BY  
MONIQUE DUSON