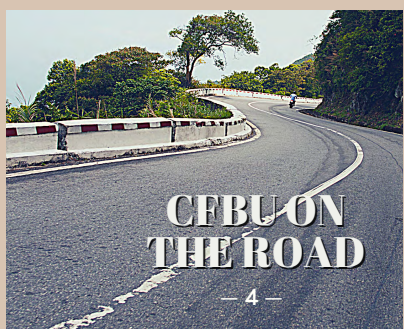




THE CENTER
FOR BIBLICAL
UNITY

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Quarterly Newsletter



Dear Family,

Funny story: When I first became a Christian (and even into my adult years, if I'm honest), I literally thought that Jesus' last name was Christ. No one told me that Christ was actually a title and not a last name. Thank God for seminary classes and Krista's putting me on the right track!

I chuckle at this now, but I think there's a lesson for all of us in my mistake. See, when children are adopted, according to the laws of the land, the last name they were given at birth is taken away, and they receive the last name of their adoptive parents. The adoptee now belongs to a new family and is no longer associated, in name, with their family of origin. They are grafted into a new family and share the siblings and benefits of their new family. This transition isn't always easy, but it is what happens in adoption.

For believers, the process of spiritual adoption is much the same: We get a new name! We have a new Father! We get new siblings! Our physical ties and cultural traditions now take a role of secondary importance in our lives (Matthew 12:48-50). In Scripture, our first father is listed as the devil (John 8:44-45; Ephesians 2). Before adoption, we were called unrighteous—a people under the power of sin. (Just read Romans 3!) But now that we are adopted, God is our Father (John 1:12). Jesus, our Savior, is our brother (Romans 8:29). And we get a new name. In Scripture, this name sounds like "heirs," "redeemed," "chosen," "Children of God."

A biblically informed understanding of our vertical relationship with God should affect and guide our relationships horizontally with our brothers and sisters. Regardless of skin color, ethnicity, cultural background, or socioeconomic status, our unity as brothers and sisters is affirmed in the work of Jesus on the cross and in the words of Scripture.

I'm still not certain what Jesus' last name was, but I know that we share, with Jesus, the position of being children of God. Likewise, we also share in His inheritance, the heavenly position with Christ, and the familial relationship with one another. In 2022, let's link arms, remembering that we bear the same name, Children of God, because we share the same Father.

Grateful to be your sister in Christ,

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

ADOPTION & BIBLICAL JUSTICE

Family

Feature

As adoptees together in the family of Christ, we must stand up for our brothers and sisters who are marginalized because of racism in our world. However, it's just as important that when we do speak up, we're advocating for biblical justice.

Jessie has been a CFBU Monthly Partner since 2020. She shares why our message of biblical justice is so important to her:

I remember the first time I saw someone be overtly racist. I was working as an English teacher in South Korea. I needed to find a substitute teacher so that I could take a week off and attend my best friend's wedding. An acquaintance from church volunteered to take my classes for the week.

The school interviewed him and gave vague, nonsensical reasons why they wouldn't let him teach. I pushed and my supervisor eventually confessed to me that he was rejected from the temp position solely because he was black. She said that he would frighten the children and the parents would be angry.

I was shocked and furious . . . and felt completely helpless to do anything about it. I do not want to feel helpless in the face of injustice. I want to stand up and help my brothers and sisters get the treatment they deserve as image bearers of God.

I believe that CFBU is an excellent resource for people who feel helpless. They want to stand up but, like me, they don't know how. By financially supporting CFBU, you can continue to train people and give them the confidence they need to stand up for justice—biblical justice.

Thank you, Monique and Krista, for what you are doing. You have made such a difference in my life.



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Don't miss out on new content and get engaged with CFBU by signing up for our weekly newsletter, "The Weekly Roundup!" It's a great way to stay current on the latest CFBU news.



EMPOWERING YOU ON THE FRONT LINES



At CFBU, it's in our hearts to encourage and empower you to take the truth into your sphere of influence. Everyone has a community or "family circle" to speak into. We hope our resources, events, and speaking engagements are equipping and strengthening you to speak truth about racial unity and equality!

Teachers in public and private schools, including Christian schools, have seen racial concerns come to the forefront in their classrooms recently and are reaching out for tools to help students think biblically. As a presenter at Teach 4 the Heart's 2021 Rise Up Summit this fall, Monique was able to equip Christian teachers with the tools to address racial unity in the classroom. Here are a few things people had to say about Monique's presentation:

"It stuck with me when she referred to the truth that we are all from the same family through Adam—I need to be thinking of other people as my sisters and brothers."

"Wow, so much to chew on from this session!!! Just loved how she kept coming back to 'do I look into the Word or culture for what I believe?' And the reminder that we must help our students understand 'objective truth with a capital T' instead of opinions and culture."

"I loved Monique's enthusiasm about this topic. She backed up everything with Scripture and was blunt/honest with her speech and how we should act as 'family.' She looks in Scripture to see how people should be treated, etc., not in culture or popular cultural theories. Sin is sin and needs to be dealt with."

"When we understand how to TREAT people from a biblical perspective, that informs ALL of our actions. Wow. Great word."

"I appreciated her candidness about unity needing to come from the Bible and not from what the world is selling or saying. We need to get back to the word and understand that unity is all about Jesus and reconciliation."

"Everything she said was amazing, but what stuck out to me most was that in the early church, people couldn't leave and go to a different church when their feelings got hurt. They had to work through things."

CLICK HERE

to purchase the full conference, including Monique's presentation, "A Biblical Approach to Racial Unity."



HELLO MINNESOTA!



Krista and Monique went on the road for Stand to Reason’s Reality Conference in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, November 12–13, 2021. There, Monique equipped thousands of youth with a biblical understanding of racial unity and family, and both Krista and Monique ministered to attendees throughout the conference. **Here is some feedback we received:**

From Pastor Ken, who brought eleven youth and five youth group leaders from his church in Gretna, Nebraska:

“I just wanted to thank Monique for her wonderful talk, her story, and her wisdom she laid out. [Our youth] benefited in many ways. This topic is so 'front and center' in our culture and I appreciated the candor in pointing it back on ourselves – we are so sinful (each of us) and, as you said, “sin ruins everything” – which is why we have racism. Wow – your points (lessons on unity) were fantastic! Thank you for what you do!!!”

From Kristin, who attended with her daughter:

“My daughter [Grace] and I attended the Reality Conference in Minneapolis last weekend. Thank you so much for your words of counsel and encouragement. We need this in Minneapolis!”

From Beth, a mom who attended the Reality Conference with her husband and two sons, and who later reached out to CFBU, asking to be involved as a prayer partner for the ministry:

“We were blown away by your talk, Monique, and our youth group sat together at the hotel afterwards and had some good conversation. Thank you for speaking the truth so clearly and so lovingly. We were blessed!”



CFBU family, your partnership with us makes events like this possible. Thank you for helping us continue equipping young people with tools to engage the culture with truth. It’s a family effort, and we couldn’t do it without you!

Training

DISCERNING HEARTS

Takeaway

Understand first that your friends who believe in CRT or support popular “social justice” causes probably have a genuine concern for the poor and marginalized. That’s admirable! Remembering this can make it easier to love your social-justice friends as you want to be loved by them. Show that love in your conversations while standing firm in your convictions as you share biblical truth.

