



THE RECOVERING FUNDAMENTALIST

P O D C A S T

Episode 27

Schaap Part 1

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Recovering Fundamentalist Podcast
transcripts@recoveringfundamentalist.org

[0:00:01] JC Groves: Mhm, everybody. Thanks for tuning in to the recovering fundamentalist podcast. Hey, we want to give some shout outs to our sponsors. Free life, soap Free life soap. You can now get 20% off of your order when you use the promo code RFP free life soap. Check him out today at the recovering Fundamentalist dot org click on the free Life soap ad and save 20% there. We also wanna thank J radio. We're coming to you live from the J radio studios and Brian, Did you finish your playlist yet?

[0:00:33] Brian Edwards: No. I have failed. I meant to call you this week and ask you, Do I send in a list of my songs along with my recording? I don't even exactly know how this work.

[0:00:44] JC Groves: Did you get your e-mail? Or you haven't checked it like that.

[0:00:47] Nathan Cravatt: Could you pull your phone out right now, Brian, and tell me what the number is on your email icon.

[0:00:51] Brian Edwards: I have 5559 unanswered emails.

[0:00:56] JC Groves: No way. I have 5013

[0:00:59] Brian Edwards: and 647. Unanswered texts.

[0:01:02] JC Groves: What? Right. You were invited to come to Trump's speech with all the other guys a couple weeks ago and you didn't even know it. But all of those emails were going away because I'm losing that email address here in a couple weeks. So I got two weeks left with mixed emotions, mixed emotion. I'm terribly sad, but extremely excited, so it's gonna be good. Brian, how about this week? 30 songs. Just put it in your notes on your phone and text it over to him.

[0:01:30] Brian Edwards: I definitely will, because it's gonna be the greatest playlist anyone has ever heard. I mean, yours is gonna be relatively carnal, and then you're right. Nathan's is Nathan's is gonna be like

[0:01:40] JC Groves: hipster tree hipster worship

[0:01:42] Brian Edwards: that no one's ever heard. It's gonna be like two guys and

[0:01:45] JC Groves: Presbyterian music, like in the worship topic guy. Is that how you picture me? Jesus boyfriend. You sit on his lap and stroke his beard. Now

[0:01:54] Brian Edwards: I picture you listening, Thio, uh, one guy with an acoustic guitar and two guys with box drums writing songs as they go

[0:02:01] JC Groves: where in tacos and flowy pants. Exactly. That's it, man. I don't even have

to get on Twitter to get picked on like this. Speaking of Twitter, Brian, you pulled out the big old spoon this week and started stirring the pot of Twitter controversy.

[0:02:16] Brian Edwards: Yeah. You know, uh, I think it's some kind of a hobby or something. But when you touch on the King James version issue when you touch the idol of the independent fundamental movement, you immediately are gonna be in deep water. And so, you know, I was just saying that King James on Lee is, um would have been rejected by the apostles, which is true because there's no scriptural support for it. So I stated a fact, and apparently that makes a lot of people angry. And, you know, they've been calling us all kinds of names. If I could just say this, you know, real quickly. Three independent Baptist constantly worry that we're lumping them in to just one massive group and that we don't admit that they're, you know, different types of people in the eye FB movement. But they lump us altogether. When do they give us the courtesy of separating us into different categories?

[0:03:07] Nathan Cravatt: That's a great point in thinking about Twitter. You can learn a lot of good things about yourself on Twitter you know that if y'all discovered this yet, I learned this week that I've made a false profession of faith. I'm not a real Christian. I'm hashtag lost Rep. Rebate and yeah, many other things. So it's nice getting on their learning about yourself.

[0:03:27] JC Groves: And I just want to go on the record and say It's JC Groves, not JC Graves. That ain't me. I got people texted me, and they're like, Dude, what is your Twitter? But now that's not me. That's a troll. It's Nathan. But it's a troll. So right. Brian's not fake sermons. Well, and we were

[0:03:43] Brian Edwards: also called the Beast the False Prophet and the anti Christ, because they're three host of the recovering fundamentalist. And then there's the Beast, the false prophet in the anti Christ. So I wanted to wait until the next podcast to ask you guys who's who.

[0:03:58] JC Groves: If I have to choose for

[0:03:59] Nathan Cravatt: myself, I'll call myself the Beast beast mode right here. Come on.

[0:04:03] JC Groves: It's good.

[0:04:03] Brian Edwards: Of course you would.

[0:04:05] JC Groves: Eso Who are you guys? Paper, rock scissors?

[0:04:08] Brian Edwards: Well, I just don't wanna be the anti Christ, because I've already been I've already been called Judas, you know, by the sword of the Lord writer. So I don't wanna be Judas and anti Christ.

[0:04:18] JC Groves: Speaking of Sword of the Lord Hamblin had a moving experience this

week and brought us out. It was utterly disgusting, but it was pretty funny. That man, I just dropped to Brian jokes right in a row.

[0:04:29] Brian Edwards: That was next level. But not only did we get to experience video of John Hamblin mooing, we also got a video clip of Tony Hudson. Either with two jacks or to Jenny's, I don't know, but he was on, you know, one of the old school Bush hogs. He was being pulled by either to Jack's or to Jenny's, or Jack and Jenny and, uh,

[0:04:54] Nathan Cravatt: and then to describe to our listeners what that means,

[0:04:57] JC Groves: because, I don't know.

[0:04:58] Brian Edwards: You don't know? Well, the Jack is a male mule, and a Jenny is a female mule.

[0:05:03] Nathan Cravatt: Maybe it was to Jenny's pulling a jack.

[0:05:05] JC Groves: Ooh, snap. Okay, I didn't say that. That was Retweeting Nathan provided. By the way, That was not JC Groves or Brian Edwards. So what was the song that don't take my horse to the whole town? Right? Well, I can't singer Brian.

[0:05:23] Brian Edwards: See, I was thinking more like, uh, good morning, Captain. Good morning. I was thinking Mule Skinner blues. You know, back

[0:05:32] JC Groves: in the old days. Whoa. That's before my time and mine. Oh,

[0:05:37] Brian Edwards: Bill Monroe. That's classic.

[0:05:38] Nathan Cravatt: And I will be looking that up this week. That sounded

[0:05:41] JC Groves: pretty cool. Is that gonna be on your J radio playlist? Okay, awesome. Go check out the J radio online at j radio dot com. Also, you can download the brand new app on your iPhone or Android and be part of our sponsors here at the RFP. You already get the show started? Absolutely. Let's go, everybody. Thanks for tuning in to the recovering Fundamentalist Podcast episode number 27. Listen, friends, what can last longer than a Faith Baptist camp offering in a Dean McNeese message All in the same service? Ah, container home from pod life dot house can. Whether you need affordable or one absolutely adorable, let the team at pod life dot house design your eco friendly pot home for your guesthouse, your second house, or for the offended husband. Maybe a doghouse. Visit them online at pod life dot house and start designing your own space and view pre built models that are currently available. It's pod life dot house. Hey, friends, we wanna thank you for tuning in to the podcast where your host, J. C. Nathan and Brian and we're coming to you live from the J radio studios. Hey, we have a big big month coming up in the month of October. It is a non account October. I'm fired up about this month. Guys,

[0:07:33] Brian Edwards: I'm excited.

[0:07:34] Nathan Cravatt: It actually is getting started

[0:07:35] Brian Edwards: early in

[0:07:36] JC Groves: September, starting on September the 30th, the O G. That we like that we love everybody wants to know who it is, and it's not one of us. It's fake sermons coming on September the 30th. And then on October the seventh, we have the wrestling pastor. October the 14th. We got North Worst Seminary. He's gonna be handing out honorary degrees to everybody on October the 21st, the real O G. Lloyd Legalistics coming on. Then we're wrapping up with the Piggly Wiggly revival on October the 24th with The Loving Pastor. It's gonna be a fun month. Who knows what content is gonna come out? I'm a little nervous about it. Honestly,

[0:08:12] Nathan Cravatt: I have no idea what to even expect and I'm part of the show.

[0:08:16] Brian Edwards: I think it's gonna be incredible. Hey, this week, guys, I ascended to the top of the mountain when I was being Twitter abused on my feelings were being hurt. Being it, it happened. Lloyd Legal ist actually chimed in on my post in the comments, and suddenly it felt like wind was blowing through my eight hairs and I was hearing wind beneath my wings. It was a great moment.

[0:08:42] JC Groves: Brian, you'll really feel the wind blowing through those eight hairs when you're wearing the Brian Visor that you can get at the recovering Fundamentalist Merch store. Just go to the recovering Fundamentalist or get your Brian Visor. Naham O'Brien has bought a Brian visor and Rob Atkins. Yeah. Oh, that's right. You've sold to Brian Visors. There's two men out there wearing visors.

[0:09:05] Brian Edwards: I love those guys, and I can't wait to see pictures.

[0:09:08] Nathan Cravatt: And J. C. I hope you appreciate the fact that I haven't even ordered a Nate trucker cap yet. But my J C snapback is on the way. Dude, I can't wait.

[0:09:17] JC Groves: Let's go. My daughter today I got home from church and she was taking a nap. Did I send you all that picture she's laying under her recovering fundamentalist blanket? It's her favorite blanket. It's actually really soft. It's incredible. So she's taking a nap on it. Then she woke up. She said, I love my blanket.

[0:09:32] Brian Edwards: We'll see that blanket proves you know, that we're not hardhearted, were really soft hearted and were great guys in spite of the fact that people think because we're recovering fundamentalists that were attacking everybody.

[0:09:45] Nathan Cravatt: And the thing I don't understand is you guys call me the softy of the show. And, uh, there were guys on Twitter this week telling me that I hate all the I f B people, even though I have family in the I f. B. I never said I hate anybody in the IFB. I hate some of the false doctrines and extra biblical things that they teach, but I don't hate anybody. I think there's hope for everybody, and God's grace can reach anyone, even people in the IFB You heard it here first.

[0:10:10] Brian Edwards: I think it's impossible for you to hate anybody. You're just the hopeless optimist.

[0:10:15] JC Groves: Thank you, Brian. I will find the tapes. Alright. So tonight, moving on with our episode, We're excited to have the pastor of Faith Way Church in West Chester, Ohio, the land of no college football coming all the way down there. He's had little sleep, but he's in the studio with us tonight. We have Ken Schaap in the studio with us. Ken. Welcome to the recovering fundamentalist podcast. Thanks,

[0:10:40] Ken Schaap: guys. This has been an enlightening behind the scenes. Look, guys need a documentary.

[0:10:44] JC Groves: We don't know what we're doing.

[0:10:47] Ken Schaap: We're in our in, Uh, but, uh, I'm thankful you guys can edit. I'm sure I'll say some things need to be edited out, But thank you for the opportunity to be

[0:10:55] Nathan Cravatt: on. Hey, bro. Thanks for joining us, man. This is a big deal for us. And you and I have had behind the scenes conversation. J. C. Ate dinner with us, and I'm excited about this episode. This is a big deal for the recovering fundamentalist podcast. If anybody knows about the fundamentalist world, I would say it's you.

[0:11:12] Ken Schaap: Oh, boy. Yeah, I got Thio. Have a front row seat, Thio, the Hiles Anderson, you know, circle of fundamentalism. And there's certainly, you know you kind of label all the camps right by the college That's associated or the name and eso being Jack Kyle's grandson. I got to see um the those those later years of ministry. And then when my dad, Jack Scott, took over Well, way had some ups and some downs. So I've seen a lot. And umm thankful for the good which will cover and certainly look forward to just talking through some of the things that we've experienced.

[0:11:51] Brian Edwards: You know the reason I love having guys like you on the podcast. People just don't understand that the front row seat as you referenced gives you a completely different view. The inside look, you actually go home with the pastor that changes everything. And so why don't you just share your story with us and with our listeners tonight, and I know that they're gonna love hearing what god gives you to say, Justus, Muchas as the three of us are.

[0:12:19] Ken Schaap: Yeah. I mean, I find myself being defensive sometimes. Still, when people are talking about their view on Jack Hiles because I'm like, I don't I don't think you know. But at the same time, I think growing up. I was criticized for being critical of certain things that I've seen, and I felt like I could say so. Well, let's back up. I mean, I was born 84. I think I'm the youngest guy in the show here, so that's goodbye. Two years. Good job. Awesome. Um, but don't have the hair that Nathan has. So, um, I'm with the bald group, but welcome. I, uh, born 84 a lot of things already happening. We grew up hearing about battles like these. Certain scandals were tough times were referred to his battles on Day 84 was a battle because my uncle had been kind of kind of outed and eso there was a massive scandal going on. It seemed like course, I don't remember much of it. And, uh, you know, growing up, I spent a good amount of time with my grandparent's, uh, you know, after every service, evening service, we go into my grandpa Hale's office, and he was just a great grand grandfather to me. Um, and that's how I knew him. He you know, he loved his church. He loved the people that were around him. Hey, was fiercely loyal, and he expected loyalty in return. Um, and it was a unique time. Told me it was the epicenter of Christianity. You know, that was the I didn't know anything else and and the way people talked about. I mean, my grandfather was single handedly fighting communism and liberalism and modernism and feminism and yeah, you know, so on. And, you know, it was a dynamic speaker for sure, running around kicking microphone stands. Well, he preached. And so that was just, you know, you grew up seeing that loving it and my home was a was a healthy home. My dad, Mom modeled a good marriage for me, Uh, the entire time that I was living in the house and so I I loved it, you know, growing up. I loved it. I loved that they had this song. There's something different in the air. It's Sunday and it was electric. The atmosphere and pastor schools were, and you just believed that, you know, the whole nation kind of depended on things church to stay healthy and strong. This was the bastion of not just fundamentalism, but the future of America. So, you know, the good old blend of patriotism and Jesus, um, that we had, uh, you know, throughout. And so I certainly love of country. It was there,

[0:14:34] Brian Edwards: and that

[0:14:35] Ken Schaap: was my upbringing. And when I was 16 my grandpa passed away. And so, really, all my memories of him are as a grandfather, and then just preaching on the platform and seeing him his office and obviously traveled a lot was busy, so I would say we were extremely close is closer to the other side of families faras grandparent's. But yeah, I never saw anything personally that, um that in my mind disappointed me about him, but I knew of rumors and scandals. It was all stuff that happened before, you know, before I was six years old and my grand parents that they were both there were happily married the entire time that, um, that they were live, that that I was a part of their life. And then my dad became the pastor, and, you know, you start taking a kind of moral analytical look, I think because I was obviously living in his house and seeing the church, And so for the first time, I think some of the Rose colored lenses were taken off because it wasn't just the church. It was the movement because as soon as he became pastor all the guys who didn't immediately had their opinions and I was fiercely loyal, fiercely defensive. I was positive they got the right man in. So I watched kind of him just get creamed for just being the next guy. And I saw a spirit of idolatry among Ah, lot of

people who, you know, their God had died and certainly wouldn't have voiced it that way. But their tribute toe conferences they held in his name, said otherwise and s It was a pretty pretty strange time. And and I became that was my first time, just kind of being disillusioned with this brand of Christianity. I mean, I wasn't a great Bible reader as a teenager, but it sure seemed like the love and grace and unity that was called for by the Apostles was missing amongst these things. Brethren, people who had seen when I was 15 coming and preach and just praise and applaud the ministry were not critical of the same ministry because they, in my view anyways, they were quite jealous and mean spirited. And so I was defensive of my dad, defensive of our church. And, um, you know, I had had my own my own stuff going on. Um, and I was certainly too proud and too focused on the wrong things, but that was kind of my upbringing through through my grandpa Files Ministry and my dad's, Um when I got to college, I married my high school sweetheart, and I've been told I couldn't marry her until I got out of college. So I got my four year degree in two years and I was just in a hurry. Thio get together with her and be married. And right away I realized I married an awesome person and I was a terrible person. I just had a lot of pride and and honestly, I've been given a heart for the Lord. Um, from from what I had seen in from my view Now I've heard so many stories of people that were in the ministry at the same time going through the same system I was who didn't get that perspective. Um but I saw a behind the scenes, and my grandpa that I saw was a man of prayer. My dad and our home was a man of prayer. And so I had a heart for God and I When I when I got married, I was done with college. I could, I could. I was being offered a job in the ministry, and then what do you want to do? And I didn't have any vision. I just wanted to get married. And here I was married and man, I was just disappointed in myself. I was supposed to teach the Bible, and I just didn't know the Bible, didn't know the word, but I had a hunger for it. And so that really strangely started to bring me away from the brand of Christianity that, um, that I had been brought up on, though. I mean, I was reading guys who weren't King James only and just being moved. And I was discovering people like early church fathers and they weren't independent Baptist, And, um, I was reading about revivals that took place in history, and they're just getting hungry for God. So it took me through just a a season of seeking God, Um, I didn't do it the right way, and I've told everybody about it. So I've broken all the rules that Jesus gave. But I went through a 40 day fast as a 21 year old and that's when I lost all my hair. Uh, went quick and my poor wife were like, but just a few months into marriage. And I'm like, Honey, I know I'm a pathetic husband, so I've got to figure this out. And so she would eat in the corner like hide food for me while I just like miserably, like, endured. And I did it all the wrong way. I didn't even know how to really see God, but you know that that was just a part of my world. I was hungry for God. It led. It led to a little season of revival for a lot of people in our church. And so that za part of the church that that doesn't make it a part of part of my life at that. No one ever talks about that. You know, it was a church that was seeking after God, and there was a lot of people who are hungry. We had all night prayer meetings. We had people being saved and it was a really, really unique time. And in my life I started working the ministry. I went to the college and began teaching at Hiles Anderson and I just saw some holes. There was no hermeneutics class, you know, we're training preachers. How do you study the Bible? Um, the class on prayer had been dropped, so I got to teach a class on prayer. I got to teach hermeneutics. I'm, like, totally unqualified to teach these things. I remember when I got my first schedule, I went on the fighting fundamental form and I was

getting creamed for not being qualified. And I was

[0:19:44] JC Groves: like, You're right, I'm not qualified. Um, yeah. And so I'd read

[0:19:49] Nathan Cravatt: about it. I had

[0:19:49] Ken Schaap: an anonymous account on a on the old sharper iron forms defensive of the ministry. I mean, but I was reading for the first time, uh, critiques of the ministry where I was I was like,

[0:20:01] JC Groves: you know, that's that seems valid,

[0:20:03] Ken Schaap: as as I look. And it

[0:20:05] JC Groves: does. It does

[0:20:05] Ken Schaap: seem imbalance in certain areas, and, uh, and so that that seeking after God and then kind of taking a critical look, So But I was I was convinced that we were gonna change. We were gonna evolve and move forward and into the future and had a lot of great conversations with co workers and friends and my father as well. And there were there were flaws that he recognized and changes he thought that needed to be made. And so, after a few years, teaching to college, he made a statement just trying to soften the stance on double inspiration of the King James. And boy, that was that was war number Two. About the time that the guys who didn't become the next pastor of the church let their jealousy kind of subtle and got tired of throwing stones at him. He he gave them new ammunition with with with this view on this common sense view, this historical view on on translations and and and really didn't go as far as he should have. And I've been asked Thio I would like to teach at the summit, and again I was weighing over my head, but I was reading stuff and I was bringing it to the committee and I was like, Can I say this now? You can't say that and s O. I was kind of forced to just, um you know, not forced, but was it was recommended to me that this is what you have to teach on, and this is these are the parameters of your subject material. So again, that was disappointing to me that, you know, we're institution that centered around truth. And we got a hold of this length. We've already lost so many students. And so here we are, defending something that's indefensible and talking to people who already having a defensible position who aren't gonna change and are just gonna make matters worse. And right about that time the recession hit. And, you know, I watched the I watched my dad just just fall apart. I watched the flame out, you know, burnout. And I was ambitious, you know, I was on the I was on the rise. I was traveling a little bit and preaching. And the fundamental world, you know, that's what it is. Yeah. Signs of Bibles get some love offerings and preaches and teens. So I was I was doing

[0:22:01] Brian Edwards: it growing

[0:22:02] Ken Schaap: up. That's what I thought you're supposed to do. I mean, my grandpa

traveled, you know, twice to meetings two or three meetings a week. My dad was traveling 30 40 meetings a year or more. Depending what time? What number He said at the time. And you know. So I I was doing that and I was ambitious. Um, and hey, kind again lost my heart for the Lord that I that I had been given a 21 and Mawr, just on the corporate track when it rise up, eventually became the vice president at the college. And I was young. I was the vice president. I just a ton of pride. And I was so proud, ambitious. I didn't see what was happening, you know, in my my family. And, you know, I think it's one of one of the struggles that I had after everything happened was, you know, why didn't I see this? So about 11 years in the ministry into pastoring my dad, Uh, there was a youth conference going on, and, um, I was sitting on the on the platform, someone was preaching. And then someone came and grabbed me and brought me out. And long story short, I just learned that there was we had limited information. We don't know exactly the extent of it, but we knew that there needed to be an investigation. And so my mom and I went to his office and told me, Couldn't preach that night. He supposed to close the conference out, and after the conference ended, he disappeared and security to know where he was. And so I sat down with church leadership. And so that's what I know. And I'd love to say I did it because I know this is the right thing to do, but I think I did it out off fear for him and just not not knowing what else to turn. But I'm I'm thankful That's the way it went, you know, And I'm thankful for those who around me who who are wise enough to say we need toe. You know, we need to be honest, and I had always known there have been, you know, I honestly had read more about it online than been told by my own family. But I knew there'd been cover ups for for relatives in the past, and and my dad had been against that, and he had. He had strongly in the early years of pastoring said. We don't cover things up. We need to apologize for things. And whether he went far enough or not doesn't matter. But at that point I knew that we needed toe. You know, we needed toe for his sake, to be honest and say We got to get to the bottom of this. And so there was a week long investigation and, um, we went out of town. My sister and I and our families went out of town and we got back. My dad called, you know, it was a bad day and, you know, there that position and the way it was set up, the way the church leadership was set up, he was he was it. And he ran everything. And there was no no one who could tell them. No. And even if you have a heart of gold without that accountability that the Scriptures, I think clearly layout, then that that that power corrupts and the pressure of the recession and the pressure of other things eventually lead to him making some decisions that led to horrible, horrible consequences, you know? And so we went to this little season off, you know, mainstream media calling and and at the time Piers Morgan was a CNN host, he was calling Jay Leno was doing jokes about my dad online. It was a really bad bad time on. And, um, you know, the Lord really prepared me for it with with two things. One about a year before, um, my prayer life changed and something weird that no one could ever really explain to me in the ministry was that that the Lord just lead me to just cry and grieve in private while I pray and I had no idea why I was crying. I was like, Lord, preparing me, Remember asking some guys. So I thought, you know about prayer. Why is every time I pray I cry for an hour and like, I feel like I'm going blind and crying so hard, I don't know. But it was just like God broke my heart. And when everything happened, the Lord said, um, you know, I've been, you know, been preparing you to go through this, and I didn't know how to go through it. I don't think I don't necessarily think that we went through that season the right way, but I knew God. And so it wasn't like my my God had died, which it was for some people and

that that was the way the ministry have been set up. And then some people that I'd read I read a book by Phillipine Sea called Disappointment with God, um, two weeks before my dad was fired and as I was reading, and I'm like, this isn't for me right now, but I just kept reading, and, um, he just talks about the different times in life where it seems like God lets you down and got hurt you for some reason. And it talked. It's about suffering emotionally. He has a book on physical suffering in that book. Just man, it just ripped my heart open. And that is exactly what I needed. So, really, God, just help me despite me, despite what was going on. And, um and so we went through the season of I'm working at the college. Still, we're opening up and then, like my dad, who was running everything now he's just home, and we're waiting to see what's gonna happen. And ultimately there was a plea deal, and hey, the plea deal said 10 years. The judge gave him more than the plea deal. And, you know, um, he was guilty, you know? And so he got what? What the sentence says. And, you know, there's other cases you could see other cases around. People got a lot less for what might be more. But what happened happened. And, um, I found myself, like, furious at him and then defending him to people you know, like that, That just love for for your love, for my dad and at the same time just absolutely ticked off of what we're walking through Now we're walking through bankruptcy, were walking through taking care of my mom, and nothing set up and she's on her own. And, um, yeah, it was, uh that was a really, really crazy time where God was really, really and and And if I've since talked to people and said, When God, when God really hurt somebody, if they just look for him, he'll be closer than he is. The the average person you know, we got hurt you, our allows you to be heard. I should say, um, you know, when sin hurts you when the enemy hurt you on and and the Lord sees that he's allowed that to come in. Um, he's gonna walk close to you. And, you know, I think that that was such an encouragement to me. And he did. It didn't mean that that life didn't hurt, you know, for that season and from there for me, you know, I was kind of done, you know, in the ministry. I stayed for a year and a half longer and very thankful for so many hundreds of friends who were kind to me, the church was kind to me. But honestly, we didn't say anything to the church like it was just I go to church and they looked at me like, Are you gonna talk and tell us what happened? Because there was really no release of information. There was just what the press was saying in there because there was a trial. There was very little the church leadership could say. So the church was just frozen, you know, what do we dio? And you know, I think it's by God's grace that they're still open honestly and and seeing people save. So after that, though, we we left toe start a church for some reason I was taking my resume. Eso imagine that, uh, and God just let us in. For two years, we started church, and we just tried to survive. You know, I'd like to say I had a vision and know exactly what I wanted, but we didn't realize how much grieving we had to do. We didn't realize how much of an identity crisis we had to go through. We didn't realize, um, just the toxicity that was in our life. And God just began to strip that away. And I've never seen the righteous forsaken or have to beg for bread. And that was it right there. I was only righteous because of Jesus. And I was just I was lost in and who I was. And, um, you know, a precious wife and patient little group of people. After two years, God gave us a new a new start with our church. And yeah, that's the short version.

[0:29:32] Brian Edwards: Man, That's incredible. Can I just ask this How did studying hermeneutics change your view of of scripture what you had believed and then what? You

currently believed because you were diving in to that Herman you tickle study How did that start to even transform you, then?

[0:29:54] Ken Schaap: Yeah. Hermeneutics prayer and spiritual warfare with three courses that really revolutionized my walk with the Lord and my outlook on the Christian faith. I should add 1/4. We had a class called The Fundamental Man, which was just talking about my grandpa, and they gave me the class and I turned it into church history. So those four courses really helped me. Uh, I thought it was really weird to have two credits about Jack Kyle's life and no credits in church history. So I changed that course too. So, uh, hermeneutics, um just you you're starting to read the rules of how scripture should be interpreted. And then you're not seeing that take place in the average message that you're hearing a twist. That was my experience and good people who are working like crazy and burning the candle at both ends toe, you know, for a small salary are being asked to preach, and they're taking a verse and just running with it. And we had many, many opportunities to preach, you know, because you only have one spiritually gift you use, Um, that's teaching everyone else uses serving, and sometimes when it's really unhealthy, the serving is for the teacher and not for the Lord. So that was my experience. So, you know, just seeing how to handle the word. And then and then that leads you to listening to preachers who handle the word skillfully. Exactly. And they're starting to talk about doctrines that have never been explored. They're starting to talk about things, um, that you've always just heard. Spoken of in a poor way. The first time I met a Calvinist who loved the Lord and actually was a sole winner. That was that was a mind blowing experience, because in many cases, when the Calvinist was mentioned, he was mentioned. As you know, there was a strong man. He was just a terrible person who, um, you know, gave a horrible picture of God and so meeting people who love the Lord, hearing guys like John Piper, um, preach and and hearing a healthy theology and preaching that that was that was definitely a journey out. And they're hermeneutics really helped me spiritually. Warfare was a warning to me because I saw a lot of things that were not dealt with in the ministry. And so I saw strongholds that were there again, Looking back, you know, I felt like, man, that was strongholds that I should have seen as well, you know, hindsight, uh, looking back, I could see those things. So s so that those those courses, it was funny being asked to teach a course not qualified for, but being given the liberty to just get whatever material you wanted, um, you know, really helped me and God let me toe some some great stuff that that prepared me for what was going to happen but also, you know, really wanted to move. At the time, I really wanted to move the college forward, and and many others there did as well as far as the academics. There was some strength there, but But there was There was some holes, some significant holes that I saw and even more since I've been out that, you know, when you're teaching them how to be a pastor, pastor, before, um, you know, I think I could go back and teach some, teach some things that would be a little more relevant.

[0:32:47] JC Groves: Helpful? That's a powerful statement right there. Yes, it is.

[0:32:51] Ken Schaap: those who can't do teach, right?

[0:32:52] Nathan Cravatt: Yeah, well, can I want to thank you for sharing your story because

that's very personal. And obviously you've had to walk through years of healing and you were you've been transparent enough with us to say I'm still going through that process. It's It's an ongoing process. But I wanna say to you and I think speaking for our listeners and speaking to our listeners as well, this is a great reminder that your family are really people like It's all I've always heard Jack calls. And I have, you know, strong differences with how he chose to preach. I think of who slew these and how he butchered that text. Uh, my opinion. I know Brian. That's his favorite sermon. But anyway,

[0:33:40] Brian Edwards: I called it the worst abuse of the pulpit I'd ever

[0:33:42] JC Groves: witness fun. Fact. Brian, I

[0:33:44] Ken Schaap: could give you better examples, Brian

[0:33:45] JC Groves: Fun fact Brian Statham says, Who slew these? That's that's really funny.

[0:33:51] Nathan Cravatt: But I think of those things and I could talk about it, and I've been on social media and even on the podcast. We've mentioned your family members names multiple, and it's just a reminder to me that you're a real person, that we don't want to exploit your family. And I'm honestly, can I wanna confess this to you? I'm convicted of how I've spoken about your family because if that were my family, it I wouldn't want people just throwing the names out there and laughing and secondhand jokes. So to you, thinking back about the podcast. I'm like, Wow, how have I used his family members names? Because you are loyal and you do love your family, even people that have let you down and even people that have hurt you. So for me, this is humanizing you and your family. I think a lot of people that that are in leadership and that God has given vast spheres of influence and not to just not just influence but gift ings. Your grandfather, your dad, You you guys have some very incredible gifts that God has given you. And when you have ah, lot of gifts, pride can set in and things can I know, even in my life, it could take me in a bad direction when I received praise and things like that. So I just want to say to you that as I sit here and put myself in your shoes and I think our listeners should do this is, well, that your grandfather's name, your dad's name shouldn't just be a byword, like we should all take notice. The Bible says, Take heed. He who thinks he stands lest he fall, and we're all capable of the worst sin. There's not one of us in this room that is above what Jack Scott did.

[0:35:38] JC Groves: Like I say, we're all one decision away from stupid.

[0:35:41] Nathan Cravatt: Yeah, that's that's a really, really good way to put it.

[0:35:45] Ken Schaap: Appreciate it. I, you know, I grown up the stories they told became kind of legendary in our world. And, um, you know, when I was 21 remember jumping online and reading things and and all of a sudden, for the first time, I wondered if the stories that had inspired me that that my grandfather told were true. And it helped me, you know, seek after God and find him for myself. And yeah, that was That was the first time when I was looking at

the messages he preached and listening with a little more of analytical ear, and I was still very defensive at that point, I don't Listen, I have I have three messages of hiss that I listened. Teoh. The only one I mentioned is this kind and appreciate often when he was very young. And so it ain't even that there's some stories where I'm like, did

[0:36:37] JC Groves: that really happen?

[0:36:38] Ken Schaap: And, uh and and unfortunately, there were stories I heard my dad sell growing up that I found out were not true and so lead to a crisis of faith A little bit like Wait, this was used as the clincher before everyone thes guys surrendered to preach.

[0:36:52] JC Groves: So wait a minute. If the story

[0:36:54] Ken Schaap: is not true or wait,

[0:36:55] JC Groves: you just

[0:36:55] Ken Schaap: preached Jack Van Impe Sermon verbatim.

[0:36:58] JC Groves: Home on bond. That's the sugar

[0:37:00] Ken Schaap: stick of America. America Right there. Um, that was, uh, those were those were times for me when I had to take a step back and and really wanna be authentic. And if this is fake and obviously when you see someone that you adore in the spiritual world let you down, then you want to throw the whole thing out. So authentic became a keyword for me, you know? I don't know you know, if you ever have the influence, not numerically, but that's not what to me. What matters? What matters is that I can walk through this life with the Lord and it be riel,

[0:37:35] Brian Edwards: right? You know, one of the things I question having looked back on your circle of fundamentalism and our circle of fundamentalism, You know, when your grandfather was up preaching in a room full of people, regardless of what he said, they were gonna cheer, You know, it was it was less like a church service, more like a rally. And at the center of the rally, there was your grandfather. And so all of these people are screaming and they're yelling and you can go back and watch those services and you can see the louder The crowd yelled and screamed and shouted, The mawr emboldened! He became. So I think for a man that's a toxic environment, because it almost causes a man to lose sight of. First of all, all the glory belongs to God. I mean, let's be honest. It's a lot easier for us. Toe have big heads than it is. Enlarged hearts were easily overwhelmed by our own pride and public sin is always the result of the secrets of our hearts. So when you look back and you you know now what happened and how things went do you believe that First of all, your grandfather ultimately passed on to your dad unhealthy model and an unhealthy environment.

[0:38:57] Ken Schaap: So when my dad took the ministry over, there was a lot of talk of team,

and I think there was a recognition there. Um, I don't know if it was a thorough enough recognition, and it was certainly wasn't followed through with, but there was a recognition that one. Everything he did had to be filtered through. What did What did Brother Hiles believe? And then everything he did was critique nationally by our little world, our little bubble of Hills Anderson brand fundamentalism, pastor school brand fundamentals. And by what did Jack, I'll say, and that just that just eventually lead to problems. I mean, the entire Bible battle, that that really was a huge marker in my dad's ministry that really hurt him a lot was because we published a book posthumously after after my grandfather's death off sermons on the King James and they never the book should never been published, but, you know, we need the money. And it was it was just rough. I mean, you know, there was things he said he preached a sermon on the incorruptible seed and anybody not safe from the King. James, Um, you know, and he had to retract, You know, 25,000 cassette tapes were sent out to the pastor school list retracting that message after he preached it, because he you know, he was called out for it. But there wasn't any accountability within the ministry, and it was just It was just a man came in. And I see this in the sales world to see this business world all the time. Somebody build a business and they built it beyond their ability to lead it. And they've got a stretch and grow with it. And Jack Hiles built. He was an amazing church builder in Texas, the fastest growing church in America, one of the world's largest churches, and then moving to him. And the church is running 700. And then it's running thousands. And I've talked to my mom at length about the health of the church in the sixties. and she said his emphasis was on other things. His emphasis was on the word and the Holy Spirit. I haven't gone back and listen to his messages with a critical ear in order, I care Thio. But the church was growing, and I think there waas ah, blessing from God in that in that era. And I'm sure there were things he said at that time that we're wrong. I know that I know that. That's just that's just the nature of leadership. But as the ministry grew, um, the structure of accountability, the leadership structure didn't grow. And, you know, hiring an assistant pastor because your church is growing doesn't mean you. You broaden your leadership, you know, And and so just analyzing church structure there was there wasn't elders. The deacons did not provide accountability. The assistant pastors did not have the the level of authority that they needed to be a team. And so now here's a man that's traveling to three times a week, and he's not healthy. Spiritually. He's going through seasons of struggle in his marriage. This is my grandpa I'm talking about, and and he's he's not. No one's holding him accountable and if he loses his temper in a staff meeting, no one holds him accountable. And so to me, it's a kind of a miracle that he continued From what I saw privately, he continued to love the Lord. Because of that, You know, of the last 20 years, there was no accountability. I think his ministry really changed. When John are Rice died. That was his dad, his spiritually father. And so, you know, you say what you want about about that brand a fundamentalism. But the two of them traveled a lot, and and he considered himself very close to Dr Rice, and he never made an issue out of King James. Only is, um, he wasn't a King James onliest. He was at the first meeting for the new King James version. So apparently he was open enough for people to say, like, hey, he might be a good person, have the committee. So he and Curtis Hudson were there for the first committee meeting of whether to translate the new king. James. What was that? Thomas Nelson. And and, you know, he made a joke about it later, how he never would have apart. But he was not a strong king. James only is to use other translations. He was ecumenical. He was

cooperative. He was, you know, ingenuity of I mean, he influenced Jerry Falwell. And you know whether whether he has much influence over him is not. He set up his Sunday schools Tommy Barnett credit him and his biography, the Dream Center in Los Angeles and his own pastor school. And he says that one of the two men that influenced the ministry the most was Jack Hiles. So in the in the fifties and sixties, he was transforming the landscape of certain aspects of America and and of the of the Christian world. And and so I look back at that with joy, because I think there's gonna be fruit that remains in heaven eternally because of what he did. And I think that when people just, you know, grab a YouTube clip of a bad sermon and he's got plenty, Um, then you know, they don't realize, you know, they are labeling a man by a bad sermon and don't realize that there is an enormous fruit that remains. But yeah, there wasn't accountability. So the ministry outgrew, you know, his accountability and, you know, there there obviously was gonna be an elder ship with that style. And the deacons were not empowered enough. So when my dad took that at first, he didn't have the credibility because he was new and young. But as he grew, the church grew. They built an auditorium that was too much money and and but But building. It was a huge, monumental thing. And when that church building was working was finished and they moved in. You started to see a change one. You saw financial pressures because we borrowed so much money and then the recession. And you also saw, like, now this was This was my dad's church, you know, And he started taking more ownership, and because of that, he started losing accountability. And so when the pressure's came and no one had the answers, you know, I think the numbers that I've heard and been told where there was, you know, tens of millions, about \$2025 million in the bank. And then one year later, after recession, that's gone and there's a deficit that wasn't there before of about 25 million. You've got this massive swing. And this is, you know, five years before my dad was fired. So he's bearing this. There was no structure, uh, really set up. And, you know, I see that as a son, you know, it doesn't justify anything. You know, you've got to recognize the sinfulness of just of not setting up the church right now, leading the right, which, which, which is ultimately gonna lead the other sins. They're gonna hurt the church. And I saw that up front, so that was a long answer. Your question? Yes. Um, I did see, uh, you know, the man centered focus. And I heard that growing up, and I thought,

[0:45:05] JC Groves: I don't

[0:45:05] Ken Schaap: believe that. But I also absolutely adored both of those men and adored them in that they lifted up, you know, be Robertson Tom alone, Curtis Hudson to meet them and have them sign my Bible and get to share a meal with them. Um, that was awesome. And and so I certainly had those heroes, but I I don't think that because I knew those men personally because I knew my grandpa my dad personally closely. It was not hard for me to separate the two like it might have been for other people who didn't see behind the scenes.

[0:45:35] Brian Edwards: Yeah, thank

[0:45:36] Nathan Cravatt: you for sharing that. And I mentioned earlier that on one side I do want your family humanized. And I do wanna look through this and putting ourselves in your place. But I also don't want to minimize sin. And you just you just touched on that. Could you

speak to people in our audience who have been affected by abuse and people who have been on the other side of what your dad was convicted of and speak into that Because I know your heart and where you stand on this?

[0:46:05] Ken Schaap: Yeah, it was It was an amazing thing for me when someone told me one time, um, to pray for justice to be done because that was just not something on my list of things to pray for. And there needs to be justice for the victim. Um, you know, too many churches of letting attorneys run the church, and, you know, we trust the Lord with the church until we start worrying about our name and ultimately what? What? Some people Not everyone is a big ministry, so I don't not painting everyone's attitude, but but what many people in my home church began to believe was they started to treat the church like it was this great tradition, kind of like Notre Dame football. You know, we've got to save the tradition. We got a bad coach, Let's get a new coach and let's restore the brand. And it became a lot more about restoring the brand. And, you know, man, my dad just blew that up. You know, you can't restore that brand and and you know, you better make it about Jesus because you try to save the brand and make it about another man. It's, you know, it's not gonna work and, you know, so that that was that was, I think, a lot of the reasoning behind. And

[0:47:08] JC Groves: that was the

[0:47:09] Ken Schaap: advice that was given as well. I mean, the the attorneys and the organizations in the fifties and sixties that was the culture, and that's why we see it with Paige Patterson. We see it was old school Southern Baptists because that was the line, and and so it wasn't something that my grandfather thought of himself like, we're going to defend the church this is our strategy, but it was the common strategy of we gotta protect the church's name. And we don't wanna dragged the name of Jesus through the mud, But you're destroying individuals. And I thought, Jesus, he left the 99 went for the one. And so, you know, I don't think he was worried about his name when he became sin for us and despising the shame he endured the cross. And so we've worried too much about protecting his name. But we're worrying on the wrong end, and we're gonna protect his name. Where's the accountability? We're gonna protect his name. Then let's throughout the traditions off of celebrity church. You know, we can't criticize televangelists and then have college head slash pastor um, heroes in in our movement.

[0:48:01] JC Groves: Every movements

[0:48:02] Ken Schaap: got him every movement, got the celebrities. But if we're talking about the movement, we grew up and then let's just be honest, we care too much about the name. Uh, that's underneath that pastor, President, Chancellor letterhead. And and so we've become obsessed and we're setting them up for failure. And we are feeding their ego were also feeding our flesh because we're being distracted from the Lord Jesus Christ were being distracted from a healthy relationship were glorying, and somebody else were adoring somebody else. And we're not worshiping Jesus. And we also criticize what worship isas. Well, but that's another rabbit trail. Um, but, you know, I think that that zone enormous mess in in the movement

[0:48:37] Nathan Cravatt: you have left the independent, fundamental Baptist Movement. You are no longer in that movement. Is that correct? And so, from your perspective, what would you say are the fundamental flaws of the fundamentalist movement?

[0:48:54] JC Groves: Well, family, we're gonna have to take a pause right there and come back next week with Part two of Ken Schaap. We want to thank our sponsors here at the recovering fundamentalist podcast Free Life Soap pod, Lifehouse and J radio. Also our patrons of Patreon. You guys are incredible. And we're so thankful for each and every one of you. So thank you for giving. And if you would like to be a patryan, you could go to the recovering fundamentalist or click on the patryan tab and become a patron of the recovering fundamentalist podcast. I'm looking forward to part two of this episode next Wednesday and so you'll be sure to be here and join us next week. All right. You all have a great week.

[0:49:34] Brian Edwards: Be sweet

[0:49:36] Nathan Cravatt: peace.