



# THE RECOVERING FUNDAMENTALIST

P O D C A S T

## EPISODE 26

### The Talk

#### About This Transcript

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Recovering Fundamentalist Podcast  
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[0:00:46] JC Groves: Hey everybody. Thanks for tuning in to the recovering fundamentalist podcast. Hey, we want you to go to pod life dot house pod life dot house. They build container homes. These things are sharp. You need to go and look them up today at pod life dot house. Have you guys had a chance to look at pod life dot House?

[0:01:03] Nathan Cravatt: Me and my wife are looking at it and want to put in an order. Man, they look incredible.

[0:01:07] Brian Edwards: Yeah, I got on the website, looked and looked and looked, and now it's got me so intrigued I can't stand it like this pot house thing is amazing.

[0:01:16] Nathan Cravatt: I've got a buddy who has some property up in the mountains and you know, you always talk about building a cabin or going somewhere, but this this is something that opens up whole new doors, like how cool would it be to have a pod house on the side of a mountain overlooking the valley? That's just something that is definitely in my future.

[0:01:33] JC Groves: So we got a huge backyard and I told my wife I said, Man, there's not really room for a man cave in here. I need a pod house, man cave in the backyard. So look him up today. Pod life dot house Hey, we also want to thank our other sponsors. Free life soap. We got our shipment of free life soap in this week. Got the new smell it did you all get yours yet? It's coming because my got delivered and she was putting Y'all's in the mail But here's something incredible breaking news on the RFP She has gone from 10% off to 20% off of your order. Now, when you go to the recovering fundamentalist dot or click on the RFP link, you now get 20% off of your order, she says. Every Wednesday, when y'all release an episode, my site blows up and people are buying stuff. So thank you RFP family for buying the free life soap.

[0:02:22] Brian Edwards: And how cool is it to get those messages where guys, they're talking about the fact they ordered some of the free life soap or beard oil on their wife loves it. Yeah, I think that's really cool to get those those emails and messages.

[0:02:34] JC Groves: You know what I love is not only are we helping people break free from the chains of legalism. But we're making them smell good while they're doing it. Hey, we also want to thank J radio. They just came out with a brand new app for the apple and the android. They got playlist. The recovering fundamentalist playlist is gonna be up. I know, Nate, You sent your 35 songs in five. Brian, have you done your playlist yet?

[0:02:55] Brian Edwards: No, but I will work on that this week. This past week was actually my 31st wedding anniversary week.

[0:03:02] JC Groves: Congratulations. I was five when you got married. It

[0:03:08] Brian Edwards: was amazing. We actually went down to the beach, just had a great time, and And my wife made me make the promise that I wouldn't be on the phone, that I wouldn't do any church work, any podcast work, any kind of work whatsoever. And so, to be honest, we just went down and and we ate a ton. By the way, I've got to tell you guys about a sandwich. This sandwich is at a restaurant called the brisket. It already it was thick sliced, slow smoked bacon, collard greens, fried green tomatoes and the bun was hush puppy.

[0:03:49] JC Groves: No way.

[0:03:50] Brian Edwards: They made Ah, hush, puppy pancake. And all of that came together for this incredible sandwich with the perfect bite. That's incredible. It was amazing. It was the highlight of the whole trip.

[0:04:02] JC Groves: You know, it was I wonder, Nate, it seems like Brian on his anniversary trip all the time. Yeah, he just never respond.

[0:04:10] Nathan Cravatt: I know. I thought he was ignoring us this week to again. I feel a little bit better knowing he was on something

[0:04:15] JC Groves: that an actual excuse not to respond this time. I love it. I'm

[0:04:20] Nathan Cravatt: glad to know you weren't mad at us, Brian.

[0:04:22] Brian Edwards: No. You know, Denise has been a far better wife than I would ever deserved. She's far more beautiful than I ever deserved. And she has stood by me through thick and thin when literally we had when we had nothing, Not even two nickels to rub together. And she has been the greatest asset of my entire life and ministry. And so I owed that time to her to turn the phone off. And it was amazing. Great conversations, deep conversations. We even had the conversation. Where do we go from here? What's the rest of our life look

[0:04:57] JC Groves: like? even

[0:04:58] Brian Edwards: the conversation about making sure that we dedicate the rest of our life to God and foremost for Both of us is serving

[0:05:04] JC Groves: Jesus, and

[0:05:05] Brian Edwards: I am gratefully married and thankful for what the future holds. 31 years. That's pretty cool.

[0:05:11] JC Groves: Happy anniversary to you and Denise. That's incredible. What you missed while you were at the beach and not on your phone were a ton of emails and stories and Twitter messages and Facebook messages. Listen, we want you to know we love getting those.

We read those. We may not be able to respond to all of those. We're doing our best to do it, and we were talking about it tonight. We're like, Man, we may need to hire somebody just to respond to emails because it is getting overwhelming. I mean, the response is incredible, and we thank you for responding every day like tons of emails and text messages, and that just helps us realize that we're making an impact because every one of you are so great. Well, I say every one of you, the majority of you, are very grateful for the podcast. And here you let us know how it's making a difference in your life and that that helps us out because we come in here and we see us three sitting behind microphones and talking. But that's where real life is lived, and we're thankful for that. So keep writing, keep bringing it in and let us know your story.

[0:06:09] Nathan Cravatt: Another really cool thing that has happened this week and I want to give props to Justin Knight.

[0:06:16] JC Groves: He is the real. M V P.

[0:06:17] Nathan Cravatt: Yes, he is. So Sheri Allen, one of our listeners, sent us a message saying that some hearing impaired people wanted to hear the show. So she began signing the shows to them and they loved it. They thought it was funny and she said, Is there any way we could maybe make some transcripts available? And I first thought, Man that How do you do that? That's impossible. Justin Knight figures out how to make it happen and his description email to me, telling me how this was gonna happen. I have no idea what he said. It was absolutely like, Yeah, this dude's on genius level And I was like, Man, that sounds great. So now if you go to recovering fundamentalist dot org and right on the listen tab at the top of the page, there's a link that says download transcripts. If you click on that, there are three transcripts on there now, Dr Phil Kidd, part one Dr Phil Kidd Part two and Dave Young. That's incredible. Last one. So if you click on these man, they look so good. They're professional. They've got our logo. This just Justin did incredible with this.

[0:07:19] JC Groves: Without him, I'm gonna be honest. We were just talking to microphones and hope. People are listening like he has kept the website up. We now have a merch store that is absolutely incredible. That's all thanks to Justin. He got the transcripts going on. He works with all the hosting and the and keeping up with website. So, Justin Knight. If you're If you're on Twitter Facebook Instagram, go follow Justin Knight and give him some love our voices or what you hear on the podcast. But Justin Knight is what's making it happen. And we wanna thank him for that.

[0:07:46] Brian Edwards: The only thing Justin ever did wrong was to go along with your plan to give Brian a Visor.

[0:07:56] Brian Edwards: you should have never listened to them and put the Brian Visor. I wonder, Has anybody even bought a Brian Visor?

[0:08:04] JC Groves: I haven't. Could you see my bald head sticking out the top of advisor?

[0:08:09] Nathan Cravatt: We need to figure out if anybody has done that.

[0:08:11] JC Groves: Hey, if you have bought some RFP swag, I know we've seen some folks that about the face shields because we've got the mask mandate right now we've got some folks with the hats I don't know if anybody's bought the Brian Visor, but we're gonna bring those back, baby. Brian, it's gonna happen. I'm feeling it. I'm naming and claiming and walking around just seven times blowing a shofar. It's going to happen. It's gonna be good s attack us in that. Hey, October is coming. And I love the month of October for us because, yes, October is like fall and you know, it's Halloween and stuff for us. It's Christmas and we've got something for October that's gonna be absolutely amazing. We have if you're on Twitter and if you're not, go make a Twitter handle and get on and start following the recovering Fundamentalist podcast because there are what are known as a non accounts. If you're not on Twitter, these air anonymous accounts, these air people that make accounts and there's some of them that are really good and we're bringing on some of the O. G s, if you will, of the Annan accounts we have coming on. Whoever this is, we love him. We like him or her fake sermons. I f b Preacher clips is coming on. Everybody's like September 31st. They're so good, they get their own day. Listen, it took me a while to make that graphic, and I wasn't going back and changing it. So we just left September 31st. But they're coming on September the 30th on that episode, and then when we get into October, we've got the wrestling pastor is gonna be on on October the seventh. That is one of my favorite accounts. I don't know if you'll follow it, but he does W W f W w e wrestlers, and like, puts things like I can't be a church today because we have a softball tournament and it's somebody body slamming into the, you know, like going Oh, yeah, I love. Wait, that was Randy Savage, man, I'm a wrestler Family. I just messed that up completely. But we got him coming on in the seventh on the 4th October the fourth, which is my anniversary. Shout out me, we have North Worst Seminary is going to be there. He's good. The 21st is Lloyd Legal ist the O. G of all like 36,000 followers. This guy right here is the O G of Twitter and anon-accounts. I think he's what got Everybody else started

[0:10:18] Nathan Cravatt: first and then I followed, like, five or six years saying, I don't know, a long time ago.

[0:10:22] JC Groves: Hilarious. And then we got the loving pastor on the 28th, and he's wrapping it up with the Piggly Wiggly revival. I'm so excited for that one that's coming in October, so be sure to stay tuned and I hear all of your favorite A non accounts and we've got some a non accounts that air taken after our names. Now

[0:10:39] Nathan Cravatt: we have some haters

[0:10:40] JC Groves: and using our faces as the profile picture. There's one that's John Calvin Graves that's out right now.

[0:10:45] Nathan Cravatt: So far, Brian and I don't have hater accounts but I'm sure that's coming. Actually,

[0:10:51] JC Groves: make one tonight.

[0:10:51] Nathan Cravatt: We may be just a little bit more likable than you. I don't know

[0:10:55] JC Groves: or its u E o

[0:10:57] Nathan Cravatt: J C. Does think that I'm the J C grade.

[0:11:00] JC Groves: I literally just ask him, Sitting in the studio, Brian gets Are you fake sermons all the time? But I just asked Nate, Are you John Calvin Graves? Because this guy knows a lot about me. It's kind of freaky. I mean, he's stalking my Facebook and going back.

[0:11:12] Nathan Cravatt: He said that he was the only one not in that picture with you and that other guys, which

[0:11:18] JC Groves: makes no sense. That's Brian Sailer. He's a friend and this guy wasn't there, so e don't know who it is, Nathan.

[0:11:24] Nathan Cravatt: He offered to go eat with us. I just don't think he'll show up. I think we'll be stood up. But we could go eat Mexican anyway. That's a

[0:11:31] JC Groves: good. And he chose the restaurant in Ringgold. So

[0:11:33] Brian Edwards: Well, I do have tons of anonymous accounts that send me mean messages and that even post on my tweets. I mean, I don't know how anybody couldn't appreciate the things I tweet. Uh, I stir up trouble under my own name and they come after me big time.

[0:11:51] Nathan Cravatt: So the earnestly contending is constantly posting things on all of our threads and stories and tweets and all that different stuff. And this K J V. I don't know which.

[0:12:00] JC Groves: I'm pretty sure that's Nathan rager on a burner.

[0:12:03] Nathan Cravatt: I think it is. He's like, Yeah, he

[0:12:05] JC Groves: gave us props the other day. He said, Hey, these guys aren't like the fake and non accounts is like whether you're faking Onek, Yeah, get the odd

[0:12:14] Brian Edwards: thing for me about the end on accounts. You know when anytime we post anything controversial there, there. But then, you know, recently I posted something like, You know, Jesus is Lord and they can't even show any unity at all. When I post something they agree with, you know they can't support Jesus is Lord. But man, they can, uh, they can chime in. When I'm talking about the over abuse of pastoral authority,

[0:12:38] JC Groves: Lloyd Legalistic defended us the other day. Lloyd Legalistic defended us. Did you see that? I did. That's like

[0:12:47] Brian Edwards: that was one of the greatest days of our lives.

[0:12:48] JC Groves: It's like all these big I f b pastors when Trump shook their hands. I think they're important now. Hey, we've got Lloyd Legalistic.

[0:12:56] Brian Edwards: I hope people realize that we're doing what we're doing as a ministry. As a matter of fact, I want to just say to the to the patrons who are supporting, uh, this this ministry, I wish you know that that we had been free enough that so far we could have fulfilled everything that we spoke about with regard to you supporting us as a patron. All of that's on the way. But But I hope you realize that more than anything else, you're investing in a ministry. This ministry is growing.

[0:13:28] Nathan Cravatt: Yeah, And if anybody wants to know if you're making a difference by supporting the RFP we found out this week kind of stumbled onto it. But we were number 1 32 on the top shows for religion and spirituality on iTunes, Apple, iTunes and I found out since then that that is the most crowded category out of all. The podcast, right? At 100,000 religion and spirituality podcast. And we were number 1 72. And then, like three days later, we were bumped up to like 1 31. So guys keep supporting us. And this isn't like patting ourselves on the back. Were there because you're listening. Were there because you care, because this is struck a chord with so many people out there. So thank

[0:14:13] JC Groves: you. Keep subscribing, keep sharing, give us some ratings. Put a comment on their positive or negative because we know you're going to do it. But let us know that you're listening and doing it there because, I mean, we're This is unbelievable to be 26 episodes in, and we're in the top 200 of the religious podcasts that are out there,

[0:14:33] Brian Edwards: and we know there's some of you and, uh, man, you're really giving, and you're really sacrificing. And there's some specific things that we've committed that we're going to be doing, and we will follow through with those things because you deserve it. As a matter of fact, you deserve anything we could do. And mawr, by the way, you are the ones who is gonna make it possible for this ministry to go to the next level when we're able to start meeting people in person having meet ups and and that's where we're really gonna pour into people. But one of the reasons that hasn't happened yet is because one of the host for the RFP has been in a serious season of big transition. We've been doing this for a while, J. C. I think you ought to let the listeners know what God is doing in your life and your family's life and what the next step for the gross family looks

[0:15:25] JC Groves: like. Yeah, it's been crazy this last 10 months has been a ride. I'm telling you that much. Even before the podcast started, God was just working in my heart that there was something new out there. Um, for those of you that don't know, I'm the campus pastor of

a multi site church. We started this campus eight years ago with a handful of people and pre covert. We were busting about 1000 and three services, and we just moved into a multimillion dollar building two weeks ago. And on Monday, the day after we moved into a building, I actually resigned on and said, We're done and I can't explain it. It's hard to put into words and it logically and rationally it doesn't make sense because this building is what we've worked for for eight years. But you know, I want I've always said when God says jump, I want to say how high and I'm like, You know what? This is where I wanna go. If, you know, faith is stepping into the unknown. Faith is doing what God is asking you to do even when it doesn't make sense and up reading your family. 11 years ago, we packed up moved 2000 miles away to Salt Lake City, Utah. We were there for two years and God brought us back home. And this church has been amazing. Um, we are heading down to Statesboro, Georgia. There is a phenomenal church down there called Connection Church. Um, look them up connection church. They have music, that is, that's actually how I got connected with Connection. Church was through connection music, and there's a song called Faithful Right now. That is absolutely incredible. Back in January, I was listening to this song is about 2 33 o'clock in the morning because you have to understand. Just a few months before that, I had gotten home from a sabbatical, and I very clearly heard God's say, J C, you're done. You've got to release this. It's not yours to take to the next level. And I kind of thought that, guys, I mean, I've spent eight years trying to build this church and be part of the community and do things in there. And it was just like God said, You're done. I was like, Oh, okay, here we go and I was really struggling because things weren't working out the way I thought. And I learned something in. That is when we maneuver and manipulate the Holy Spirit. We're not trusting, and I was trying to figure it out on my own and make things happen for God where little did I know it's gonna take 10 months in the process. We got this podcast started in January. Things have just been rolling. I mean, we would have never thought we would be right here. 26 episodes in with this money downloads with this ministry continuing to grow. And I'm glad I didn't leave in January because we get to be here in the J radio studios and there's just a lot of things they God is always at work. It might be behind the scenes, but he's always doing things were completely unaware of. But one day will benefit from, and he has called us to go down to connection church in Statesboro, Georgia, to be the student in college. Pastor like I listen to you guys preaching like man, they're so good and being a campus pastor. If it's taught me anything, it's that I'm made for student ministry. I am just a student pastor at heart. I can't get away from it. And so we're heading down. There were gonna be just a couple miles away from Georgia Southern University, which is one of the top party schools in the country.

[0:18:15] Nathan Cravatt: Over 20,500 students. It's

[0:18:17] JC Groves: incredible, and nobody is doing anything for college students in Statesboro. So we're going down. I believe that that student ministry is middle school to college, and I'm telling you what I am fired up this last eight years being out of student ministry, getting to help a little bit. But it has been a dry season for me because it's just not where I'm supposed to be in. So breaking up is hard to do this past Wednesday night at our first Wednesday service. My wife, who's an incredible singer, and she's saying Oceans, which we went old school a little bit and saying Oceans, I know something that's brand new They're



still singing days of Elijah and they're like, Oh, we just started singing that one But we went old school and saying Oceans and just talking about walking out on the water with faith unknown that we just took a big step of faith. And then I came out and just said, Hey, you know, Chapter one, God took us to Utah Chapter two. He brought us back here eight years ago and were willing and ready to submit the Chapter three. We're stepping into the unknown and it's time to go. It's time to say Okay, God, here we dio and we're moving the Statesboro Guys, listen, I believe that God's will is practical. It's not mystical. We weren't out of God's will working there. We were in God's will. But we're stepping into a new chapter. We put our house on the market, and in 48 hours we had a buyer. We were under contract. We drove to Statesboro, found a house were under contract there in 48 hours. It's just like boom, boom, boom. There's so many things that are just falling into place. And I believe that that faith is following God's instructions even when it doesn't make sense, even when it doesn't seem logical. Irrational faith means being obedient. It

[0:19:51] Brian Edwards: sure does. J. C. And one of the things that was a part of you stepping away was having that difficulty talk. You have. You had not only video that talk, but then you had to deliver that talk live and on our text thread

[0:20:08] JC Groves: that you're talking about once in a while. Hey,

[0:20:13] Brian Edwards: I text with you guys more than anybody else. You were talking about the fact that it was so difficult toe have that conversation it was. And so tonight this episode is gonna center around the idea of people who have toe have that conversation or the talk with their family or with their pastors as they know they're leaving the I f. B. And yet they feel like they can't be fully released until they talk to the people they love and the people they know who love them. And so what? That leads to is this really difficulty conversation that tonight we're calling the talk? E think it's difficult for a lot of people. Just in the last week and a half, I've heard from Ah, former pastor who had to tell his family he has been a ministry for a long time. He parents well, he husband's well, he's a great man, but they had to sit down in some way like adolescents and tell the family what they were doing and why they were doing it. And the most difficult person they had to talk to was the father in law. And he just talked about all of the things the family said. All of the things the father in law said, trying to have the talk. And then I've talked to a young up and coming pastor who has had toe have the talk with person after person after person, he's had to talk with people from his former Bible college, and of course, they roasted him royally. They gave him every reason why this was the wrong decision, why he he needed to rethink things, and then word spread because they would tell another person another person, another person about his decision, and so those people would call him and over and over and over again. He's having a have this difficulty talk, being chewed out every single time, then having to talk with the pastor back home and then talk to the family. And then I heard from a young pastor who's actually one of those gifted young men that I've met in a good while. He had tohave the talk with a former mentor, and that former mentor, who is a pastor, unloaded both barrels on this young man called him everything but a deserter and a heretic. And guys, I think there are a lot of our listeners out

there who have either had the talk or they're approaching having the talk. That's a difficult place.

[0:22:57] Nathan Cravatt: It really is. I had a conversation with someone this week that I absolutely cannot name. Uh, they are in a situation with their family, and there have been demeaning comments. They have mocked him. They have accused him of walking away from God. They are kind of rubbing some things in his face over some things that they're doing that is that is kind of pushing his family out from the rest of the family, and he just opened up to me this week at a really deep level, saying, You know, I love my family. I care deeply about my family. But no matter how hard he tries and how hard he tries to mend fences, it just pushes them further away. So I think this this talk is really, really important. I actually asked This guy was like, Man, what are you doing? Are you sacrificing cats or something? I'd be like, What are you doing? Are you like worshiping Buddha now? And he's like No man, we're just going to a church that, you know, is a little bit more relaxed as far as the preferences, the 2nd 3rd level, the open handed issues, he said. And that is our family's decision. It's not Mom and Dad's decision. So I think this talk is really one of the most important things we can do an episode on right now,

[0:24:17] JC Groves: because normally when you hear the words the talk, it's awkward. It's filled with Cem strangeness because the talk in other contexts than this is not necessarily what we're gonna be talking about tonight and I think even like the talk, if you will, when you're a teenager and apparent having that conversation, this could be just like that. Awkward. There could be some, Ah, lot of feelings, a lot of emotions, a lot of like misunderstandings that could take place. And so I believe this is a very important conversation.

[0:24:45] Brian Edwards: The thing that made me really aware of how critical this conversation is, how difficult it is and the fact that there are implications and consequences often attached to this conversation was knowing that I have to pastor friends who told their families that they were resigning from their independent Baptist churches and they were gonna be planting non denominational churches or taking nondenominational churches. Or they were gonna be joining the Southern Baptist Convention, taking a Southern Baptist church. And since having those conversations, their families haven't spoken to them. They've been completely, totally disowned, not included in family get togethers. They're not invited to Christmas. These individuals have been completely abandoned by their families. I think there are a lot of people in our listening audience who hear those stories who know people who have those stories and think about how difficulty. It would be to tell your family if you believed that was the conversation that was gonna lead to the breakdown of your family. Ah, lot of people feel like they couldn't even live with themselves.

[0:26:05] Nathan Cravatt: A friend from my childhood reached back out to me this week, and we had a lot of conversations like two hours worth of telephone conversations. And one of the things he told me was that when he had to have that talk, his family told him that, according to Scripture, they had to mark him and avoid him. He was still going to a Christian church Christian denomination, still reading his Bible, still loving the Lord, still believing all the

Orthodox doctrines of the faith, just walking away from the I f. B. And he was marked as a heretic

[0:26:42] Brian Edwards: actually had a really interesting conversation this past week with a pastor evangelist son and their family started making just minor changes, and we were talking, and he was telling me how that he was dating a young girl from another church and his sister then wore pants and they would listen to other styles of music other than just, you know, hymns or Southern gospel, and in a church service, he was told out loud that he was leading people astray. This young lady was told that her family was gonna end up on the rocks, wrecked completely spiritually because they were allowing their daughter to date. This young man who had a sister who wore pants and because they listened to some contemporary Christian music. I think people live in fear of that. That division that can happen because we don't want to stir up strife. We wanna be able to get together for the Christmas dinner. We want to get a Christmas card, be able to give a gift. And I think a lot of people stay in the I've be not because they they're fed. They're not because they spiritually belong there. I think a lot of people stay there because they're afraid. Toe have this talk that we're talking about now,

[0:27:59] JC Groves: and I think there's a couple of reasons one, they there at the church that they've been at their whole life. Everybody they know is there, um that's their circle, if you will, and their shared beliefs and practices. It's that close social connection that they have, and I think the talk about them when they have this talk or if they leave the pain of that because you're I mean, we know When we started this podcast, we said This is a line in the sand. We knew that we were willing to take that step, that there's no going back guys like we do this episode number one day when we're sitting down there at the old studio and said, Hey, we do this episode, there's no going back Like we can't look back and think we're gonna get preaching bookings at these I F B churches or camp meetings or think, Thank God they're not coming Um, that, you know, like this is a line in the sand and the talk. I mean, think about the conversations have been had about us just doing this podcast from close family from people that we have looked up to, people that we love because we're saying things that don't meet their requirements. And I think, you know, I think of a young man that's ah, worship leader Now, when he left the I F B Church, the prayer request or the Gossip Circle, also known as the prayer chain. Um, that was called. There was a prayer request about him that was going out, that the devil is really working in his life now because he's leading music without a suit on. And you know he's using a guitar that crushed this young man like he was like, That's what people think about me. And I think that's why a lot of people just have the talk or never have the talk. And they just leave because having the talk is too difficult to say. We're out.

[0:29:31] Nathan Cravatt: Yeah, and one of the things that confuses me about the I f B is the I in the i f b the Independent. If anybody believed that it was okay to follow God's will out of something into a new place, it should be I f B people. I mean, they obviously don't think we need to go back to the Holy Catholic Church. They obviously think that people need to have some sort of autonomy when it comes to making decisions and following the Lord for their family. It's almost like all the things that we were taught growing up that you step out in faith you follow God, but then when you do that, if it leads you to somewhere your family doesn't

approve of, even if it's biblical, even if it's scriptural, even if you still believe in a firm, all of the fundamentals of the Faith and Mawr it's still not good enough. So I personally don't understand in a tradition of Protestant reformers who came out of something that was corrupt, and then the i f B stepping out of the Southern Baptist Convention, which they thought was corrupt at the time. And there was some liberalism and some corruption in it. But they chose to step out. But then, when people step out from them, it doesn't seem to be a level playing

[0:30:51] JC Groves: field. Part of an email that we received a while back, said the I F B thinking, it's hard to escape. They use this language. That said, it's a disease that infects every aspect of your life. Truly abandoning the forsaking of the I F B movement takes work. Ah, lot of it. For many Xie FB church members and pastors, it took years of therapy to truly break the bondage of fundamentalism that it had on their lives, and even then deep scars remained.

[0:31:16] Nathan Cravatt: And it's interesting Following up last week's episode with Dr Dave, and by the way, he did a great job. Our listeners have. He texted me today and said, Hey, man, I don't know how you guys do this he said, Since I've come on the podcast, I need to take a vacation because people are blowing me up with emails, text messages on social media. So thank you listeners for engaging with him. I believe he's an honorable man, and he did bring up some really good points that there are some good I F B churches out there in some good pastors and some good evangelist. But we also need to acknowledge that there are a lot of dangerous places. There are a lot of places that have left Scripture behind, and it's all about tradition. And there are some people that need toe walk away from some toxic environments from toxic leadership.

[0:32:04] Brian Edwards: Yeah, and I agree with that, Nathan. The one thing I would say is none of us are independent Baptist at all, and none of us are gonna affiliate with any branch or division of the Independent Baptist church because, you know, there's basic shared beliefs and shared on scriptural standards that I just I can't unsee. Years ago I had a guy who was arguing with me about why wouldn't I just come back to the Independent Baptist Church? And I said this to him. Once you see truth, you can't unsee it. And so there are things that I can't unsee. I've crossed that bridge. I've had those talks. I remember when I told my dad what God was doing in my life. The conversation that we would frequently have was was him saying to me, You know, why don't you just come back in this direction a little bit? Why don't you just move back? If you could just be a little more balanced? That was the word he used frequently. We kept having the talk over and over again, and one day I finally just looked at him and I said, Daddy, if I were to change what I believe right now, I would be a compromiser. Yeah, I've made this move out of conviction, and I think that's the one thing that people need to understand. If you leave the i f B because of convenience. You're leaving for the wrong reason. It needs to be conviction about things you have seen in God's word things. You believe about God's word if you leave for any other reason. In my opinion, you're leaving for the wrong reason.

[0:33:47] Nathan Cravatt: Last week we conceded the point that Dave was trying to make, and he made very well that there are good I f b people out there. They're good i f b churches, but I would also ask for the same courtesy for us. Is it possible that God has called us to reach a group of people that the I f b will never reach? Is it possible that God legitimately called our families out of one denomination into another one and that we're not running from God and that we don't need to come back home? I believe that God wants to reach different people through different groups, and I've never looked back. I don't feel drawn. I don't feel compelled. I don't feel led back into the I f. B. I love ah lot of those people. I'm thankful for a lot of those people, and I know there are some really good ones out there. But God has called us to a new season. He's called us to a new field to a new harvest. And for our listeners who are really struggling with this. The place that my mind goes is, however, this talk goes, because it was different for all three of us. But however this talk goes with you and your family, you need to know number one what you believe. You need to be able to give an answer for the hope that lies within you. You need to be able to say these are the reasons, the biblical reasons why we're leaving and the biblical reasons while we are stepping out. And I just have to be honest with you, your family is probably most likely not just going to accept that they should, because as an adult, as a father, as a mother, as the leadership of your family, you should be able to say, God is leading us here. These are the biblical reasons why, and that should be respected. But that's not always the case.

[0:35:39] Brian Edwards: Well, one thing I would say Nathan and follow up to what you just said, I'm not convinced that adult people need to step back into the role of Children and get everyone in their spheres approval of the move that they're making Romans 14. Everyone must give an account of himself to God. You know, one of the things about the I f b. At least the I f B that we grew up in intimidation was a weapon and a tool that was used frequently, As a matter of fact, as an adult man, I can remember being in services and feeling scolded. And I was 10 years old again in the Sunday school class, terrified that the teacher was gonna keep his promise and go get my daddy. Intimidation. Yeah, was a tool in a weapon. And a lot of people are putting themselves back in adolescence when they're in adulthood, and they're responsible for their decisions. And so, getting with your family and pleading with them to accept you as if you're making this horrible, blasphemous move against God, I'm not really sure that's required.

[0:36:59] JC Groves: You know, my brain goes to John 10 10 when you're talking Bryan, that talks about how the enemy has come to steal and to kill and destroy. He's coming to steal your joy. There's a difference in joy and happiness. Happiness is based on your happening joyous something that only Jesus can bring. And I know for me towards the end and for all of us. There's no joy in that. When you're going through life and you're worried about having the talk you're worried about. What is people thinking when you're worried about What is it? What's the shunning gonna look like when I leave? There's no joy there living for man's approval. That's what it's all about. That's from Day one of this podcast we've said. Are you living four man's approval? Or from what God says about you, acceptance from knowing who you are in him and whose you are in him and he's come to steal that joy. Satan knows that, and I think a lot of times the joy suckers are family members. I mean, let's be honest with that.

He's come to steal your joy. It's come to kill your witness and destroy the life, but the verse doesn't in there. It goes on to say, but I have come that you can have life and have it more abundantly. King James or as other versions say you can have to the full life to the fullest, Thank you. I think what happens a lot of times is people stay in this place because they're worried about what people are going to say about them. They're worried what might be lost in the transition out, and they allow Satan to defeat them. They're not living the full life that Jesus talks about in John 10 10 and listen, do not misquote us and say, Oh, well, the recovering fundamentalists said. If you leave the I f B, that's what Jesus is talking about, John Tintin. We've discovered the fullness of joy that comes from living a life that is totally devoted to him that's walking in the newness of life that he's called. He didn't call us toe, always be searching for an old path. He said. Hey, I want you to press forward into the new and I want to give you life more abundantly living that that's not your best life now that's not thinking positive or any of this. It's knowing that he's in control and we're walking with him into that new life that he's come to give us

[0:38:59] Brian Edwards: well, J C. One of the things that I hear frequently that's used against people when they're having the talk is the idea that you're leaving the faith. Yes, you know, a few weeks ago when we were interviewing feel kid, he made this comment Well, that's a Bible word. If you remember, my rebuttal was No, that's a King James word To him, the King James is the only Bible. Well, to a lot of people, the independent Fundamental Baptist Church is the only church. And so when they read the Bible and they see you know the words the faith, they don't think about the fact that they're just one tiny expression of God's global church. A to churches all over the world. When they read the faith, they don't picture some Asians in a little hut next to a rice paddy, gathered around one page of a scripture, talking and learning how to live their faith. And they don't have a lead pastor and they don't have a worship team, and they don't even know him. And they don't even have any understanding of a pianist with a beehive hairdo and, you know, a flashy dress and lots of jewelry and makeup. They they don't understand any of those things. We're just even now. We're just one tiny fragment of a part of God's great big global church. But when they read the words the faith, they automatically think that's a reference to the independent, fundamental Baptist Church. And so if you leave that you are leaving the faith.

[0:40:41] Nathan Cravatt: Yeah, let's just be honest. There are a lot of people out there that cannot imagine that God would lead somebody else a different direction than he led them. I'm glad God leads people in different directions because people reached my dad that other groups weren't reaching. People reached your families that other groups weren't reaching. And as far as that goes, I'm thankful for the I f B. Our families were all brought into the faith through that, But I believe there's still people that need to be reached. So don't stay because somebody else can't imagine what God is leading you to do. If God is leading your family, you've got to follow God, even if it means walking away from brothers and sisters and fathers and mothers. And Jesus even talked about that.

[0:41:25] Brian Edwards: Second Timothy 47 when Paul said, I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. Paul wasn't confessing that he was an



independent, fundamental Baptist. That's not what he was referencing. And I know that's heartbreaking for a lot of people. But Paul didn't have a Scofield King James Bible, and he wasn't an independent Baptist. Sorry to disappoint.

[0:41:51] JC Groves: It's kind of along the lines when some Christians think that God's talking about America in Scripture or that you know the references to our country or our president play into biblical times. If I see one more video, if somebody singing a song about Jesus and somebody running with an American flag, I'm like, that makes no sense at all. Uh huh,

[0:42:12] Brian Edwards: yeah, I hate I hate the one I saw recently. Um, it was actually, um, a picture. And it had Jesus on a cross and it said Jesus is my savior. And then underneath it, it had. Donald Trump is my president. I can't imagine those two. Those two things

[0:42:29] Nathan Cravatt: are not in the

[0:42:30] Brian Edwards: same frame. No.

[0:42:32] JC Groves: You know what all the faking on accounts were about to say. We're voting for Joe Biden. Yeah, that za coming

[0:42:39] Nathan Cravatt: next thing and and here's another thing I wanted to bring up. Let me play Devil's Advocate for a second. There is a verse in the Bible that says that as much as is in our capacity, we need to live at peace with all people. So I do believe we owe it to our families to give them a good explanation to be patient with them, to think that our parents who have been in a denomination for decades, 56 decades, would just be okay. And it's no big deal that we are leaving. It is something that concerns them, and I think we need to acknowledge that we need to be patient with them. We need toe love them. We do need to not fight for their approval, but explain it to them and give them a good answer. Because if we're mandated by God, toe live at peace with everybody as much as is possible. Don't you think that applies even mawr to our families?

[0:43:35] JC Groves: Yeah, listen us, telling my family that we're moving to Statesboro, Georgia, even though we're not leaving the I FBN That's a different kind of talk. I've got some family members that are taking it difficult. And there, you know. Are you sure you're in God's will? Are you sure this is what God wants for you? There's that we're not We're not denying that there's not gonna be some pain. There were not denying that. There's gonna be some people that just aren't going to understand. But sometimes you got to take that step of faith. And it's not what Mom and Daddy's faith is. It's your own. Sometimes you gotta just take that step.

[0:44:07] Nathan Cravatt: Yeah, And while I'm playing Devil's Advocate tonight, I do believe that there is some people who leave with the wrong reasons in the wrong motivations. We've seen this before. Someone just wants to go down the road. Someone wants to be it. The cool church with the cool lights with the cool new music. And I honestly don't believe that's a good

reason to leave. Because, honestly, contemporary churches have as many problems as old Path churches that were not problem free. Pastors who use the SV have issues just like pastors who used the King James version. So if you think the grass is just greener on the other side. And this isn't an issue where God's leading you somewhere. Search your motives. I think God always calls us in Scripture to search our hearts to search our motives. I do think people leave for the wrong reasons at times. And I do think some people possibly may be called to stay, even though that hasn't been my experience,

[0:45:03] Brian Edwards: Nathan. The only push back that I would give to what you just said If people aren't careful, you can easily be a sleeve to intimidation. Yeah, that's true. And what family often does, or what a pastor often does, is convinces people through intimidation that they are walking away from a relationship with Jesus. I had someone tell me a few weeks ago they were told You're gonna lose your family. You're you're gonna end up in sin. You're gonna throw your whole life away. See, when we talk about there being good independent Baptist churches, I believe there are great people out there and I will say that just because the church is unaffiliated doesn't mean that they aren't a great church. But some of these tactics are similar because I have these conversations over and over and over again, and I have been for years the only thing I would say to the people who are gonna have to have the talk. Don't let anybody put the handcuffs of intimidation around your wrist and hold you captive. Don't allow intimidation to keep you where you are. And I want to speak just a word very quickly to pastors who right now are pastoring for a paycheck. You are nothing more than, ah, higher link Angelus who are evangelizing for a paycheck. You're nothing more than a hireling because you say behind the scenes that you no longer believe what the independent, fundamental Baptist believes, that that's not who you are, but that you're just staying there because the price to leave would be far too high. I'm a guy who stood in front of a church of 500 people and said, these changes are gonna be happening because this is what I'm seeing in the Scripture and God's word doesn't require my approval. It mandates my obedience. And over the next 3 to 4 years we lost over 300 people who are members of our church. That's called conviction, and I'm ashamed of all of the men who, for the sake of a paycheck, are preaching sermons on a Sunday, occupying a space behind the pulpit and just going through the motions when they really don't even believe and what they're a part of and what they're preaching. That's sad. God's word speaks against being, Ah, hireling have the courage to make the changes that need to be made to. Have the talk with whoever you need to have the talk with and make sure it's a talk of conviction. You

[0:47:58] JC Groves: know, Brand, that's a great point. That's a great place to stop right now with this episode. But I want we get this question a lot. Hey, I'm leaving the I f b or I've left. What are you guys reading? What was something that you were listening to? A reading while you were going through that transition. And we're gonna have a tab on our website soon where you're gonna be able to click and there's gonna be resource is their books that have helped us out. Books that were reading, uh, podcast. We're listening. Thio music. That's helping us through that. Some articles, Maybe that we've seen sermon Siri's this is stuff that will be content that can help you as a one stop shop place that you can go to and say, Man, I'm really struggling in this area today and we want to be able to help you just through our



experience. How God's use this stuff in our lives, we wanna be a blessing to you there. Hey, guys, I read this letter from a lady. I don't know who she is. Um, I came across this letter. It was on a blog's somewhere back in Man, I want to say October, November of last year. Honestly, it was this letter that kind of got the wheel spinning about doing this podcast. It was not. I saved it in my bookmarks. It's literally been saved to my bookmarks over a year now. And I think this episode is a great one. Thio to kind of read this. This is just from her heart, and it says, Dear friends we haven't met, Although there's a good chance that if you're reading this, we've lived very similar lives. That being said, I'm not gonna pretend that even with the similarities that I know what you've been through or are going through at this moment. I just want to say that I get you I see you. You're struggling with carrying the heavy burden of indecision, of fear of the unknown You who feel miserable wondering when this all started and where this misery came from I get you you who are tired downtrodden forcing your head to stay above water Confused on why the master of the sea is even allowed you to start drowning in the first place You who are guilty ashamed and discouraged Wondering why you just can't be happy serving God you whose past memories haunt you and a relived every day The wounds of abuse still feel so raw You wonder if they'll ever start scabbing over to hell. I see you and I weep with you. You who feel that the Bible you've heard preach doesn't add up to the Jesus within its pages You who have tons of questions will this end? Will this change? Can I stick this out? Is it possible to be thankful and push through? Well, I still hear God's voice remaining in my life. If I leave or will I face his judgment? We face the same questions. And we're here to say we see you. You who are so, so tired ready to throw in the towel except your current circumstances and the possibility that you'll never be fulfilled. You who were born and raised your parents are in the church. Your siblings are too. This is all you've ever known. I know it was all we knew too. You who love your independent, fundamental Baptist church and people in it and wonder if the problem is not them. But somehow you you who just by hearing this for some reason, you're wondering why you're even searching in the first place. You've given your all you've tried your hardest. You've done your best. We see you, we grieve with you. We were you. We see you trying to make that unbelievably hard decision. We're not here to tell you what to do or what you should do. We're not here to even make you leave on Lee. You can make that jump. We're just here to say we see you and we love you. And I think that letter guys really wraps up what a lot of our listeners air feeling right now. We've been there we've done that. We've got the T shirt. Yes, it felt like the hardest thing ever to have that conversation or toe walk away. And yes, there are some friendships and some relationships that aren't what they used to be. But the joy that is found in knowing your Jesus wants you to be ISS so much greater than that.

[0:51:49] Brian Edwards: Hey, man,

[0:51:50] Nathan Cravatt: J C. That was powerful. And that definitely resonated with me. And I know it will with our listeners. I believe what this whole talk comes down to is that we have one shepherd. He is a good shepherd and he leads his sheep. We go through the valley of the shadow of death. He leads us in green pastures. He restores our souls. He leads us through paths of righteousness for his namesake. And there's different seasons in our life and different places that he leads us. I would say the most important thing for all of this is to know that

you're following the good shepherd, and if you are, you're gonna be OK. And he has given us his Holy Spirit to reveal truth to us and to apply it to our lives and for the husband who is trying to lead his wife and his Children. After the good shepherd, We're with you, we're praying for you. For the wife who's still trying to convince her husband that he's in a toxic environment. We're praying for you. For the pastor who doesn't know what to do. His very livelihood is at stake. We're praying for you. We love you were here with you. You're part of a family. And for those who may be listening, who are on the other side of this whole issue? If your kids air coming to you saying God is leading me somewhere, you owe it to them and to your good shepherd toe. Listen to them and to encourage them in the gospel and in the truth, not in what you want. And I'm a father. I'm a parent. I get this, but we're called to encourage them to follow Jesus, not us.

[0:53:36] Brian Edwards: Mhm. Yeah, and J. C. We know right now that's the season you're in. You're attempting to follow Jesus. And for those who are independent Baptist wholeheartedly, who are listening to this podcast because we know there are a lot of you out there and for those who aren't independent Baptist at all. And you're listening to this podcast. We know you're out there. The one thing we do have in common is we love Jesus. We want to glorify him. We wanna honor him, and I pray that would be true for every single one of us and J. C. I know that's where you are right now. You're trying to live to the glory of God, which for you right now means living into the unknown. By the way, I admire Kim for following you and trusting that God's gonna lead you guys well, and I really feel impressed on I say that with sincerity to pray for you guys. Aziz, you get ready to make this big transition.

[0:54:30] JC Groves: Well, I appreciate that, Brian. It's definitely extreme sadness. The relationships you see, the work that you've done for so long, and you just gotta hand it over. But there's my goodness. I can't tell you how much peace and Joy and Dagenham excitement there is to get there and get started. Um, it's gonna be good that you had the opportunity to be. There are service. When I read the letter of the other night and that I'm wanna thank you for being there. That means a lot to me. But, you know, just to see you back there and like, have a have a face that was outside of the bubble that was Rockbridge in that moment and just toe you really did my heart good Thio to see you there because I lost it from the moment go. I mean, I was over there, bomb eyes out, right at the right at the start. And it was That was one of the hardest things to date that I've ever had to do was have that talk with hundreds of people and nobody knew it was a shock. But when God says go, you got to take this step and I the only thing I quit it back to, and I think this is what a lot of our people are feeling. I was thinking this way. You were just saying what you did, Nathan. When I was a new life camp in Raleigh, North Carolina, as 11 year old kid as the big boy that could do the cannonball. I was husky back then. Still am. I'm just taller now, but they had to diving boards and there was a small diving board in the high diving board and you jumped off into a lake. Which, by the way, I don't like swimming anything. You can't see the bottom. I'm made for pools, not lakes or oceans or any of that stuff. And I'll never forget. It was the last day of camp. It was two weeks of camp, but I finally got on the high dive and I was paralyzed with fear. I did not want to let go of the little railing that was at the top of the stairs. I was just captivated by fear. I'll never forget the lifeguard. His name was Hank. He was a He was a lifeguard and a counselor. Do was

like, 7 ft tall, and he just looked at me. He goes, Hey, Groves. Hey, Groves. All you gotta do is take a step. It was like, all right. I mean, I'm at the edge of that diving board and he said, You big enough gravity is going to take over. It's like, Well, thanks, Hank. This is before the PC culture, and, you know, people were snowflakes, whatever. And so I'll I remember doing is I took a deep breath. I closed my eyes and I took a step and gravity took over and I hit the water. And then I was on the diving board the rest of the day. There's a lot of people I think are terrified. Right now you are bear hugging the diving board. You're holding onto it. White knuckles like you who used to hold on to the back of a pew and an invitation was given because you were guilted into doing something. And we're not trying to guilt you into anything. But we want you to know that we get that fear. We understand that hurt. We know that that pain of what might be it's the fear of the unknown. But when God says go, you got to take a step and just let him take over. So I appreciate you guys love you. Thanks for being there Wednesday night, Brian. Thank you for praying for us, man.

[0:57:09] Brian Edwards: Yeah. I want to pray for you. By the way. That was beautiful. What you just shared? Do you realize that JC Groves may have just had one of the most touching moments Heart gripping moments in the history of the RFP. Like I need to go grab tissues Now,

[0:57:24] Nathan Cravatt: man, tell

[0:57:25] Brian Edwards: me about it. He really does. Well, let's pray, Heavenly Father, I thank you for, uh, the fact that JC Groves is a part of my life. And I know Nathan would echo that Thank you for his family. Thank you for the obvious anointing that you've placed on his life. There is no doubt when you know J. C that he is deeply, passionately, wildly, madly in love with you. Or thank you for the way that he has dedicated his life to the pursuit of living in obedience to you or thank you for all of the great and powerful ways you have used him already. Wherever he's been in ministry, there has been flourishing. And God, I believe that's gonna be the reality for this next season. Moving is difficulty. I can't even imagine moving with six kids. There's gonna be new schools, and there's gonna be new kids to get to know there's gonna be new ministry tow launch new vision to set in place new leadership toe learn and toe work with. There's gonna be so much that's gonna be brand new about this season that JC is stepping into. But God, I pray that the peace of the Holy Spirit will be present all the way throughout. God used J. C. Incredibly over this next season. God use him to impact the college that's in that town. And through J. C Groves, being a missionary toe a college campus, I pray that you would send out gospel centered young adults all over the nation who will reach people in their families and their relationships and their friendships that J. C will never meet no or touch God do powerful things in this next season of his life helped him to keep her sanity. I pray that they would stay strong as a couple, strong as a family and trust you with everything in Jesus name. Amen.

[0:59:40] JC Groves: Amen. Men appreciate you, Brian. Thank you, buddy.

[0:59:43] Nathan Cravatt: And I want our listeners to know that we're praying for you as you navigate these uncertain waters. Whatever season you may be in the good shepherd is there and you're surrounded by community. The RFP is a community and it is growing and it is thriving and it's exciting. I cannot believe what God is doing. This is amazing.

[1:00:05] JC Groves: And just for clarity, this move doesn't change anything about the RFP we pressing on, Baby, we're going forward and the best is yet to come. I believe that with all my heart. I love you fellas. It's an honor to do this with you. That's it for this week. We want to thank our sponsors free life. So thanks for being a sponsor. Pod life dot house. Check them out. And J radio Man, we love our sponsors there. What is continuing to fund us, Helping us continue to go to the next level and all of our patrons of patron. You're the real MVPs behind the scenes doing incredible Thanks. Thanks for believing in the ministry here and a forgiving. And we're eternally grateful to you and the lives that will be touched in the conversations that will be had. You're a part of that. And if you wanna be a patron, go to recovering fundamentalist or click on the Patreon tab. Fun fact you're getting the episodes a day before anybody else is getting them. We started doing that for our patrons and they're

[1:01:00] Nathan Cravatt: loving it and we will have some extra content that will be coming That's only available for you guys were on that.

[1:01:07] JC Groves: It's happening in the sign glossy of King James is coming to and

[1:01:11] Brian Edwards: the three song E P. And your name on the end of the Church of

[1:01:16] JC Groves: Units coming. Thank you patrons on Patreon! We absolutely love you guys until next week, when we're here for episode number 27 you have a great week. Peace. Thanks for listening to the recovering fundamentalist podcast. Be sure to stop by our social media. Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Give us a follow. Also go to our website [recoveringfundamentalist.org](http://recoveringfundamentalist.org) That's [recoveringfundamentalist.org](http://recoveringfundamentalist.org). There, you can find recovering fundamentalist swag. Get your T shirts and hats. You can join our ExFundy community. See where we're gonna be having some meet ups. It's [recoveringfundamentalist.org](http://recoveringfundamentalist.org). Be sure to join us next time for the recovering fundamentalist podcast!