

January 2016

## Introduction

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### Recommended Citation

(2016) "Introduction," *Liberty University Law Review*: Vol. 11 : Iss. 2 , Article 3.  
Available at: [https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/lu\\_law\\_review/vol11/iss2/3](https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/lu_law_review/vol11/iss2/3)

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## INTRODUCTION

On October 28, 2016, the Liberty University Law Review hosted its Ninth Annual Symposium. This volume's Symposium broadly examined Christian and secular legal thought pertaining to international humanitarian law and international human rights law. We hosted legal scholars holding varying viewpoints to interact with each other both in defining and applying Christian and secular perspectives on the two fields of law. The speakers included Brigadier General Jim Walker, Dr. Stephen Parke, Major Patrick Walsh, Jeffrey Tuomala, and Dr. Yuri Mantilla. Our primary purpose in hosting the Symposium and publishing this Symposium Issue is to make an effective Christian contribution to international legal scholarship.

The Liberty University Law Review is grateful to the authors and speakers for their contributions to this Symposium and to the ongoing worldwide discussion on international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

### *Why Focus on International Law?*

During the past several years, the world has witnessed a major shift in war and conflict. Non-governmental terrorist regimes such as al-Qaeda, Boko Haram, and ISIS have strained the traditional notions of warfare and international relations and have left the international community searching for a response under existing frameworks of international law. Beyond international conflict, these regimes have committed unimaginable atrocities and crimes upon civilians and noncombatants that include rape, mass murder, sex and drug trafficking, suicide bombings, and beheadings.

Proposals on how the international community should respond have ranged from economic stimulus to corporate liability, from surgical military strikes to the declaration of war. With this Symposium Issue we seek to explore a myriad of complex topics including: international legal norms, Just War theory, state sovereignty, corporate liability for human rights violations, the tension between Islamic law and Western legal traditions, and the convergence of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. We will analyze these issues from the standpoint of international humanitarian law and international human rights law to determine how our existing international law frameworks can be adapted to account for a new international crisis. We also seek to answer these questions through a Christian worldview, knowing that all are created in the image of God and knowing that the biblical worldview must undergird any successful global response.

*Acts 17:23-31*

*For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for*

*'In him we live and move and have our being';  
as even some of your own poets have said,  
'For we are indeed his offspring.'*

*Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.*

T. Joel Francis  
Symposium Editor