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Foreward

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FOREWORD

Dean Morse Tan, M.A., J.D.

Today, many of our academic, media, and governmental institutions cry out with a singular message—that we live in a nation that is deeply scarred by generations of racial division and discrimination. Personally, I hate racism with a passion and am keen on reconciliation. At the same time, I do not think we are in an era like that of *Dred Scott* or Jim Crow. Most importantly, I believe that Scriptural guidance, if we are willing to faithfully apply it, would provide the best way forward.

Having served as the U.S. Ambassador at Large for Global Criminal Justice, I sought justice regarding mass atrocities committed by some of the world’s most heinous criminals. This includes arguably the most odious manifestation of racial and ethnic division—genocide. Deep-seated divisions along racial and ethnic lines continue to be responsible for dehumanizing neighbors as well as the infliction of horrific violence and human suffering. Although the United States is not currently comparable to nations such as Rwanda during its ethnic genocide primarily against the Tutsis, escalating such tensions here as elsewhere can contribute to escalating harm. At the same time, we should be awake and alert to the fact that foreign enemies of the U.S. (such as the Chinese Communist Party) have been exploiting racial issues to divide and weaken this country.

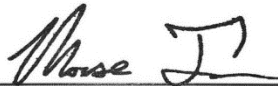
Even before I joined the U.S. State Department, I have served as a different type of ambassador—an ambassador of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now, as the Dean of Liberty University School of Law, I am honored to serve the Holy Trinity and further Liberty University’s mission of equipping “Christ-centered men and women with the values, knowledge, and skills essential to impact the world.”

I am pleased to see how Liberty Law students have worked to cultivate a forum of intellectually rigorous thought regarding contemporary legal issues in fidelity to the Christian worldview. In this publication, the men and women of the Liberty University Law Review have brought together several accomplished academics to present historical, international, and biblical perspectives for reconciling racial groups in the United States. They also organized one of the largest Symposia in our Law School to date and brought together speakers that shared their own views and experiences on a topic that some may hesitate to address on a personal level.

May publications such as this one serve as a trumpet call for the Christian church to help lead the nation in racial reconciliation. The Christian church is the broadest kingdom in existence that will eventually unite followers of Jesus from every nation, tribe, people, and language. *Revelation 7*. As believers, we are called to be “ministers of reconciliation.” 2 *Corinthians 5:18*. Most importantly, we serve a God that has exemplified reconciliation, not only through the ultimate reconciliation between mankind and God but also through breaking “down the wall of hostility [between Jew and Gentile to] create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace.” *Ephesians 2: 14–15*.

Jesus repeatedly rose above the estrangement and enmity between Jews and Gentiles, such as in His interaction with the woman at the well in *John 4*. The parable of the good Samaritan in *Luke 10* contrasts the Samaritan’s actions with the priest and Levite’s inaction—which would have been deeply resented by the Jews. Even in his last prayer before being captured and eventually crucified, Jesus shared His desire that believers would be unified as one with the Father and each other. *John 17*.

I pray for our nation and that all Christians may serve Christ through a ministry of reconciliation, including across racial lines. To gain a framework, knowledge, and skills to aid in impacting the world, these articles offer some food for thought.



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