

# THIS WEEK IN CONSCIENCE & JUSTICE

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Friday, April 11, 2025



## Top News

- **How the U.S. Public and AI Experts View Artificial Intelligence**
- **Demonstrators rally in 'Hands Off' protests against Trump policies and Musk-led government cuts**
- **How Donald Trump Is Teaching Christians to Abandon Empathy**
- **We will not be erased**

## How the U.S. Public and AI Experts View Artificial Intelligence

With artificial intelligence no longer the stuff of science fiction, its benefits and risks are being debated by everyone from casual observers to scholars. A new Pew Research Center report examines the views of two key groups: the American public and experts in the field of AI.

These surveys reveal both deep divides and common ground on AI. AI experts are far more positive than the public about AI's potential, including on jobs. Yet both groups want more personal control of AI and worry about lax government oversight.

Still, opinions among experts vary, with men more optimistic about AI than women.

Here are the key findings from surveys of U.S. adults and AI experts conducted in 2024, and in-depth interviews with experts.

Experts are far more positive and enthusiastic about AI than the public. For example, the AI experts we surveyed are far more likely than Americans overall to believe AI will have a very or somewhat positive impact on the United States over the next 20 years (56% vs. 17%).

[pewresearch.org](http://pewresearch.org)



# Demonstrators rally in 'Hands Off' protests against Trump policies and Musk-led government cuts

Coast-to-coast opposition to upheaval in President Donald Trump's second term took shape Saturday at more than 1,200 events organized by Democratic activists.

Protesters across the United States took to the streets in a series of "Hands Off" demonstrations decrying Trump's border enforcement and deportation policies, as well as mass firings under the Department of Government Efficiency.

In a statement released before the event, organizers said Trump and his billionaire adviser at DOGE, Elon Musk, have created an unnecessary crisis under the belief that "this country belongs to them" exclusively.

"They're taking everything they can get their hands on—our health care, our data, our jobs, our services—and daring the world to stop them," the organizers said in the statement. "This is a crisis, and the time to act is now."

[nbcnews.com](https://www.nbcnews.com)



People take part in a nationwide "Hands Off!" anti-Trump protest in New York City on Saturday. Eduardo Munoz / Reuters

## How Donald Trump Is Teaching Christians to Abandon Empathy

Albert Mohler, the longtime president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, is one of the best-known evangelicals in the United States, famous for his writings on faith, and now for his podcast, "The Briefing," which airs every weekday. Mohler was a harsh critic of Donald Trump in 2016, calling him a "sexual predator," and lamenting his popularity among Christians. (Mohler says that he did not vote that year.) When Mohler and I spoke in June of 2020, he called Trump "a huge embarrassment," but nevertheless offered various reasons why it was necessary to support him in that year's election. He admitted that his reasoning had a certain "pragmatic, utilitarian dimension to it," explaining that Democrats and Republicans had diverged so much on social issues.

Five years later, Mohler interviewed a fellow-theologian about "the sin of empathy." The conversation occurred in February, around the same time that Elon Musk told Joe Rogan that "civilizational suicidal empathy" was destroying the West. I wanted to hear more about Mohler's perspective on empathy, and whether his views on American politics and the Trump Administration had evolved since we last spoke. Our conversation, which has been edited for length and clarity, is below.

Now when you say those words, you are going back to 2016?

**2020. You said that to me.**

O.K., I need context here. I supported President Trump's election in 2020. **I know you did, but when we talked you said, "President Trump is a huge embarrassment, and it's an embarrassment to evangelical Christianity that there appear to be so many people who will celebrate precisely the aspects that I see Biblically as most lamentable and embarrassing."**

See more: [newyorker.com](https://www.newyorker.com)



Source photography by Hleb Usovich / Getty

**We will not  
be erased.**



The National Museum of African American History and Culture, and Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, Senior Pastor at Trinity United Church of Christ - YouTube

On Thursday, the Trump administration signed an executive order entitled “Restoring Truth Insanity to American History”. This order targets two institutions. The Smithsonian Institution, and the Department of Interior. This order states, “Over the past over the past decade, Americans have witnessed and widespread effort to rewrite our Nation’s history, replacing objective facts with a distorted narrative driven by ideology rather than truth. This revisionist movement seeks to undermine the remarkable achievements of the United States by casting the founding principles and historical milestones in a negative light.” Human happiness is reconstructed as inherently, racist, sexist, and oppressive.” The executive order takes specific aim at the national museum of African-American History and the Museum of Women’s History that is yet to be built in the United States in Washington DC.

The order specifically directs vice president JD Vance, as I mentioned previously who is an acolyte of the so-called philosopher, an anti-democratic promoter, Curtis Yarvin, who believes that some races are built for servitude and also Peter Teal is a billionaire and should be noted that he is a South African (Africana) and JD Vance has been instructed by the person who occupies the White House currently but not permanently named Trump to root out any American divisive ideology and exhibits that make America look bad.

This executive order also seeks to reinstall confederate monuments taken down during the Black Lives Matter movement. It must be noted, the Smithsonian is not a federal institution. It is a public private partnership. The majority of the money for the Smithsonian comes from persons like yourselves. The majority of the money for the National Museum of African-American History comes from people like us. It does however receive money from the government, but it is not dependent on the government to survive. The board of regions of the Smithsonian 17 people and JD Vance is only one person and has no authority over exhibit the hiring or firing staff, and he cannot place people on the board. It should be also be noted that the national museum of African-American History is the most visited museum of the Smithsonian museum With almost 3 million people a year.

The reason this executive order was created to distract all of us from a bigger ethical and moral issue. The incompetent and impossible criminal act of an administration, placing military plans on an unsecured consumer app called signal and inviting a reporter from the Atlantic on the text thread by mistake. This executive order was written to get us distracted. The real story is the deeply incompetent men and women who are in positions of power in this administration, they want to erase our history distract us from their incompetence and lack of qualifications.

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

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25-28 SEPT.

# CJC 2025 ANNUAL CONVENTION

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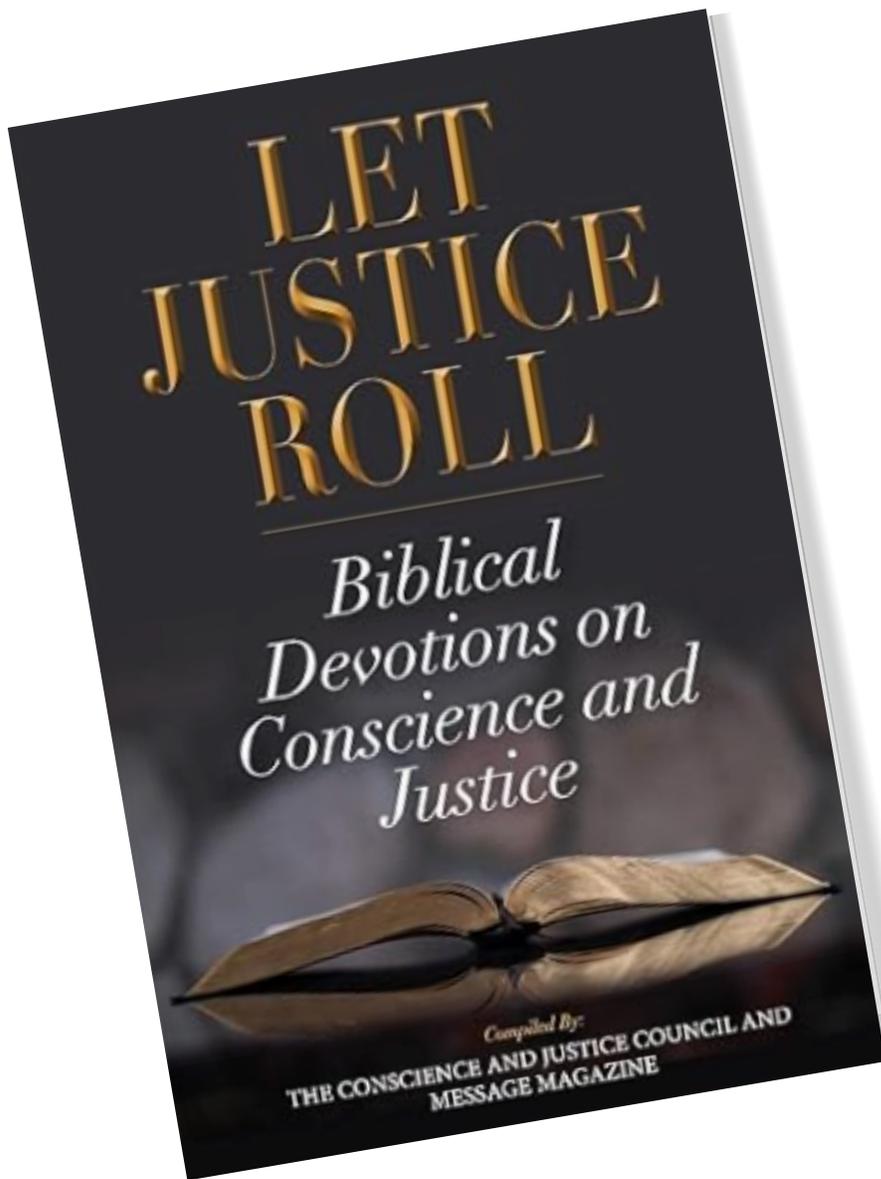


<https://register.adventsourceevents.org/2025CJCConvention>

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[cjcouncil.org](http://cjcouncil.org)



## Let Justice Roll: Biblical Devotions on Conscience and Justice

"Let Justice Roll" is a compelling devotional that walks the reader through 365 days of biblical insights in freedom of conscience, and social justice. This compilation of articles represents the work of a nationwide network of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) advocates and other connected community activists.

The components of conscience and justice ministry include conscience, discipleship, engagement, fellowship, the power of the Holy Spirit, love, and prophecy. This is a must-read book for all followers of Christ and those who seek spiritual growth. Get ready to explore the profound biblical insights in this masterful book.

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## OUR PURPOSE

This newsletter aims to highlight news articles relating to religious liberty, civil rights, and social justice. The Conscience & Justice Council desires to be attuned with society so that we may change the nation by impacting one community at a time. Articles linked above are meant to provoke thought and discussion on important topics, and do not always express options or views endorsed by the CJC.

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