

**Journal of Faith And the Academy**  
**Call for Papers: 2024**

**Theme:** Destruction and Renewal

Humanity moves doggedly forward. We move in leaps, in fits, at times dragged, but we move forward all the same, sharp-stung by a tension our unique self-awareness gives us: the need to tear down and rebuild and the certainty to find it haunted by those same old ghosts. History reveals a constant cycle of destruction and renewal. Sometimes outside forces press change upon us: the hand of God scattering the nations at Babel or the devastation wrought by the Black Death in fourteenth-century Europe. Sometimes our own innovation kickstarts the change: the printing press, the Industrial Revolution, the iPhone. Consider the foment of ideas: twin desires for rebellion against established government, the one American, colored by reluctant but resolved arms, the other French, bitter and bloody. We acknowledge that sometimes the old must go to make room for the new. And yet, we ask: what to tear down, what to leave? When Abraham Lincoln resolved to submit the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, he did so with the conviction that the United States could no longer endure the peculiar institution. Slavery, a blight upon the nation, deserved its burial. In 1996, the federal government passed the Defense of Marriage Act, which codified the definition of marriage as that existing between a man and a woman. The traditional view of marriage, it argued, must be preserved. The Respect for Marriage Act would later repeal this law in 2022. The old definition, it argued, no longer held.

The Christian faith sits at the heart of this tension as an anchorage in the face of perpetual mutability. If certain truths about God, about humanity, and about the world prove universal, then progress cannot proceed unchecked. What must be torn down or built or restored must do so in the light of Christ.

**Organizers invite those interested to submit a paper within their discipline concerning any elements of destruction and renewal. Consider the following suggested paper topics:**

- *Education:* the American Education system continues to show symptoms of decay, with declining rates in reading and math and increasing rates of absenteeism. What must change to correct course for students across the United States?
- *Literature:* What elements of destruction or renewal do we see in literature, in its mechanics or its themes?
- *Business:* The Western World continues to flirt with socialism despite capitalism's proven history of success and socialism's, well, lack of success, for want of a better word. What must change—or not—within our markets to ensure healthy economic development?

- *Political Science*: Recent research seems to suggest that the majority of voters favor a strict popular vote over the safeties of the electoral college. What voting process best ensures a fair election reflecting the will of the people?
- *Criminal Justice*: Criminal Justice reform remains a foremost concern among American citizens, but how to approach said reforms? Defund? Refund? Reallocate? The real-life consequences for missteps cannot be underappreciated.
- *Computer Science*: ChatGPT went live in November 2022. In 2023, hundreds of industry leaders, Elon Musk among them, called for a temporary pause in development related to AI systems. Can anything curb AI development? Should anything? What precautions should be taken before AI becomes fully adopted by society?
- *Physics*: The demand for greater, more efficient, and cleaner sources of energy continues to drive national and international concerns. What sources of energy must we—can we—abandon? What alternative avenues should we pursue and when?
- *Health Sciences*: More than three years have lapsed since the Covid pandemic began. What have we learned? What must be reformed to mitigate such harm in the future?
- *Bible*: The Church faces a challenging circumstance as a Kingdom rooted in the eternal but playing out in the particular. Where is it acceptable for the particular to shift or fall away? Where has the particular broken—or strained to the point of breaking—with the eternal?

All article submissions should be approximately 3,000 to 9,000 words in length including footnotes, 12-pt font, Times New Roman, double-spaced, and should follow The Chicago Manual of Style (15th Edition). All submissions should also include an abstract of the manuscript (under 150 words). The author's name, address (including email address), title, and institutional affiliation should appear only on a removable cover page. All submissions will be reviewed by an appropriate blind-peer group of readers. Submissions should include an electronic email with a document attachment in MS Word. Hard copy submissions will not be returned.

All authors of accepted manuscripts will be notified promptly and will receive a complimentary copy of the *Journal*. We do reserve the right to edit manuscripts for usage and style. Accepted manuscripts are also subject to editorial modifications with consultation and permission of the author.

Please submit articles by **June 1st, 2024** to Dr. Taten Shirley at [tshirley@faulkner.edu](mailto:tshirley@faulkner.edu).