

March 12, 2023

Dear Gordon-Conwell Trustees,

I am writing to you out of concern for the direction you're leading the seminary. I love Gordon-Conwell and I'm praying that you will read and consider what I write here.

I attended GCTS from 2002-2006 and earned two Master's degrees during that time, an M.Div. and a Th.M. My wife and I lived in Graham Hall on the Hamilton campus for those four years and we had three of our five children at Beverly Hospital! Those years are some of the most cherished years of our lives.

Over the past few years I have been growing increasingly concerned by GCTS' endorsement of Critical Race Theory (or CRT for short). But recently I have seen much more public and demonstrative support of CRT from the school, ranging from blog posts on the school's website, to the recently announced [covenant with Black church leaders of Boston](#), to the school's new [DEI page](#) and endorsement of the [CCCU Anti-Racism Education page](#). All of these items are deeply rooted in CRT, which is very concerning.

As brothers and sisters in Christ, I want to be as charitable as possible and to give each of you, including the leadership of GCTS, the benefit of the doubt in all of this. I sincerely believe that your desire in all of these instances is to love and support people of color in our communities and nation, and I can definitely agree with you on that goal.

My concern is centered around the means by which you're trying to affect change, namely by leveraging CRT ideologies. CRT is one aspect of a larger world view that is incompatible with God and His Word. That post-modern, humanist, world view goes by many names including Critical Theory, Cultural Marxism, or more colloquially as Social Justice. At the foundation of this world view is the rejection of God, the rejection of the Biblical view of sin, and the pernicious idea that all of human struggle is attributable to the struggle between the oppressed and the oppressors. That false idea creates a system of endless grievance, and one that can only divide us, never heal us.

Because it's based on a lie, CRT does incalculably more damage to those you're trying to help than it does good. The reason is that it misrepresents the root cause of the problem, and the only way we can truly help anyone is to start by understanding the root cause of their problem. C.S. Lewis makes this point well in his essay Man or Rabbit:

"Knowledge of the facts must make a difference to one's actions. Suppose you found a man on the point of starvation and wanted to do the right thing. If you had no knowledge of medical science, you would probably give him a large solid meal; and a result your man would die. That is what comes of working in the dark." (C.S. Lewis, *God in the Dock, Man or Rabbit*, 37, in *Collected Works*)

To borrow Lewis' phrase, CRT operates by "working in the dark" because it is not based on the truth found in God's Word. So for the sake of those very people that you're sincerely trying to help, I pray that you would be awakened to the reality of CRT and its deceitful promises.

Towards that end I would highly recommend that you all read the book [Why Social Justice is not Biblical Justice by Scott Allen](#). I have been reading everything I can find about this issue for the past 3 or so years

and can say that this book by Scott Allen does the best job of explaining this complex topic in an approachable and thoroughly Biblical way. If you only take one thing from this letter, please, please read that book.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this. And please know that I love Gordon-Conwell and am reaching out to you all from that place.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Hansen

[Contact information removed]