Global Faculty Initiative

The Faculty Initiative

seeks to promote the integration

of Christian faith and academic disciplines

by bringing theologians into conversation with scholars

across the spectrum of faculties

in research universities

worldwide.

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Preview Response

WHERE DOES SIN FIT IN THE VOLF ET. AL. SCHEMA OF FLOURISHING?

Gordon Menzies

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Thank you for this thoughtful piece.

The schema would be recognizable by my economics colleagues as they reflect on their own experience, but it is not easily formalizable in one of their models. This is a criticism of economic models, rather than the framework.

I have worked (with Donald Hay) on bringing economic models closer to a Christian vision of life, and have used generalizations about persons in Pauline theology as a resource. Economics has an explicit representative agent, and I am attracted to the Apostle Paul's representative agents - the 'in Adam' and 'in Christ' persons.

Following this line of thought, a Christian picture of humanity not only involves a picture of 'flourishing' but also a picture of sin.

If one is after a picture of flourishing on its own, as a normative ideal and setting aside sin, then might we begin with the example of Jesus himself?

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