



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.**

www.globalfacultyinitiative.net

Preview Response

HOW DO WE BUILD CONSENSUS AROUND BASIC HUMAN GOODS?

John R. Peteet

Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School

I respond to the Preview with three questions.

1. To what extent, and in what ways, can one argue for the basic human goods and the propositions of natural law that follow from a Christian understanding of the created order to effectively persuade those who are not themselves Christian?
2. To what extent can consensus be achieved not only with regard to those willing to engage in philosophical argument, but also with the general public?
3. With regard to arguments for establishing basic human goods, to what extent do the properties of (i) being an end and not only a means, and (ii) of empirically being (nearly) universally desired, play a role, and what other properties or principles are useful in trying to achieve broad consensus around basic goods?

VanderWeele, T.J. (2017). [On the promotion of human flourishing](#). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 31:8148-8156.

For more information

www.globalfacultyinitiative.net