



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

FLOURISHING / MEDICINE

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This brief describes well how medicine has gone astray: "experts in means but amateurs in ends." We doctors have come to focus far too much on patients *feeling* well, while ignoring both society's responsibility in ameliorating adverse circumstances (see Bradley & Taylor's *The American Health Care Paradox*) and patients' agency in caring for themselves. No wonder patients don't flourish.

Having said this, there's still part of me inclined toward a Stoic sense of eudaimonia that holds that one can flourish through the cultivation of a life of virtue despite feelings and circumstances. I'm partial toward this view because I have experienced flourishing (of self and others) in the face of great adversity. Perhaps it constitutes a second-rate, heavily qualified form of flourishing. But to say that flourishing is impossible when, for example, a patient is sick or dying, is to settle for too narrow a view of human flourishing.

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