Morality, Natural Norms, and Divine Command

Michael Gorman

School of Philosophy

The Catholic University of America

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**Five Theses**

1. Some notion of nature is a prerequisite of the Christian faith.
2. Not just any notion of nature is adequate.
3. A normative notion of nature (and, in particular, of human nature) is a prerequisite of the Christian faith, above all as support for the Christian understanding of morality and salvation.
4. While contemporary efforts to develop a normative notion of human nature are promising, it is important for them to be developed in ambitiously strong forms.
5. A morality of human nature can and should be developed in conjunction with a morality of divine command.

**Non-normative vs. normative descriptions of a nature:**

Non-normative: *Magpies, by nature, have wings.*

Normative: *Magpies, by nature, ought to have wings.*

*Magpies, by nature, should have wings.*

*Magpies, by nature, are deficient if they do not have wings.*