

God-Dependence

Here is the root of evil: blindness, darkness, unbelief. The Biblical philosophy of sin makes ethical and moral evil secondary to religious evil. Paul elsewhere refers to the “ungodliness and wickedness of men” (Rom. 1: 18). All forms of wickedness ultimately grow out of the root of ungodliness. Sin is primarily religious and secondarily ethical. Man is God’s creature and his primary responsibility is towards God. The root of sin is found in his refusal to acknowledge in grateful dependence the gifts and the goodness of God (Rom. 1: 21), which are now imparted in Christ. Darkness is the assertion of independence rather than God-dependence.

(The Gospel of the Kingdom: Scriptural Studies in the Kingdom of God by George Eldon Ladd, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Kindle, 2000 [1959], Page 30 of 141)