

7 Virtues: FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

Cardinal Virtues

PRUDENCE: PRACTICAL WISDOM

PROVERBS 14:15: THE SIMPLE BELIEVE ANYTHING, BUT THE PRUDENT GIVE THOUGHT TO THEIR STEPS.

APPLICATION: GO TO GOD WITH ALL YOUR DECISIONS. THE WORLD SAYS, "JUST FOLLOW YOUR HEART," BUT A CHRISTIAN ASKS, "WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?" YOU DON'T JUST REACT TO CULTURE—YOU MEASURE YOUR CHOICES BY GOD'S WISDOM. YOU DON'T DATE SOMEONE, TAKE A JOB, OR POST ONLINE WITHOUT CONSIDERING: WILL THIS GLORIFY CHRIST? IN OTHER WORDS, YOU ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS WILL.

TEMPERANCE: KEEPING EARTHLY PLEASURES IN CHECK

PHILIPPIANS 4:5: LET YOUR MODERATION BE KNOWN TO ALL.

APPLICATION: BE WATCHFUL. ANY GOOD THING CAN GET TWISTED INTO AN IDOL: ALCOHOL, FOOD, SOCIAL MEDIA, SHOPPING, GAMING, HOBBIES, ETC. TEMPERANCE PROTECTS US. IT DOESN'T SHRINK JOY—IT PRESERVES JOY. IN A NUTSHELL, TEMPERANCE IS SAYING, "LORD, YOU ALONE SATISFY MY SOUL, SO I WILL NOT LET LESSER THINGS RULE ME."

JUSTICE: FAIRNESS, HONESTY, TRUTHFULNESS, KEPT PROMISES

MICAH 6:8: WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU? TO ACT JUSTLY, TO LOVE MERCY, AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD.

APPLICATION: ACT JUSTLY AND LOVE MERCY BECAUSE GOD HAS SHOWN MERCY TO US. BE HONEST IN BUSINESS BECAUSE YOU SERVE A GOD OF TRUTH. GIVE GENEROUSLY BECAUSE GOD HAS GIVEN TO YOU. KEEP YOUR PROMISES BECAUSE GOD KEEPS HIS. JUSTICE FOR A CHRISTIAN ISN'T JUST FAIRNESS—IT'S FAITHFULNESS IN REFLECTING GOD'S CHARACTER IN EVERY RELATIONSHIP.

FORTITUDE: COURAGE

JOSHUA 1:9: BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS. DO NOT BE AFRAID; DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED, FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL BE WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO.

APPLICATION: COURAGE ISN'T JUST THE BIG DRAMATIC MOMENTS. IT'S DAILY FAITHFULNESS. IT'S HOLDING ONTO CHRIST WHEN THE WORLD MOCKS YOUR FAITH. IT'S SPEAKING TRUTH IN LOVE EVEN WHEN IT COSTS YOU FRIENDS. IT'S SHOWING UP FOR CHURCH WHEN YOU'D RATHER SLEEP IN. IT'S PRAYING EVEN WHEN GOD FEELS SILENT. IT'S PRAISING GOD IN THE MIDST OF SICKNESS, TRAGEDY, AND SUFFERING. FORTITUDE IS COURAGE WITH CHRIST AT THE CENTER—TRUSTING HIS PRESENCE.



A CLEAR
EXPLANATION OF
THE CHRISTIAN
FAITH

Theological Virtues

FAITH: DEEP BELIEF IN GOD

HEBREWS 11:1: NOW FAITH IS CONFIDENCE IN WHAT WE HOPE FOR AND ASSURANCE ABOUT WHAT WE DO NOT SEE.

APPLICATION: FAITH IS LIKE HOLDING ONTO GOD'S PROMISES WHEN YOUR EMOTIONS CRASH. YOU MAY NOT FEEL FORGIVEN, BUT SCRIPTURE SAYS YOU ARE IN CHRIST. YOU MAY NOT SEE GOD'S PLAN, BUT FAITH BELIEVES HE IS WORKING ALL THINGS FOR GOOD. FAITH IS CHOOSING TO OBEY GOD'S WORD WHEN IT COLLIDES WITH YOUR FEELINGS OR CULTURE—BECAUSE YOU TRUST HIS WORD IS TRUER THAN YOUR MOOD. FAITH STEADIES US WHEN LIFE SHAKES US.

HOPE: LOOKING FORWARD TO ETERNITY

ROMANS 8:24-25: FOR IN THIS HOPE WE WERE SAVED. BUT HOPE THAT IS SEEN IS NO HOPE AT ALL. WHO HOPES FOR WHAT THEY ALREADY HAVE?

APPLICATION: HOPE IS FIXING OUR EYES ON THE ETERNAL. THE WORLD CHASES COMFORT NOW, BUT WE LIVE AS CITIZENS OF HEAVEN. HOPE DOESN'T PULL US OUT OF THIS WORLD—IT FUELS US TO SERVE WITH BOLDNESS BECAUSE WE KNOW SUFFERING ISN'T THE END. YES, THIS TRIAL HURTS, BUT CHRIST IS COMING, AND THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING.

CHARITY: LOVE IN ACTION

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13: AND NOW THESE THREE REMAIN: FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE. BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.

APPLICATION: CHARITY IS LOVE IN ACTION BECAUSE GOD LOVED US FIRST. IT MEANS FORGIVING SOMEONE WHO HURT YOU BECAUSE CHRIST FORGAVE YOU. IT MEANS SERVING YOUR CHURCH EVEN WHEN IT COSTS TIME. IT MEANS PRAYING FOR ENEMIES BECAUSE JESUS DIED FOR HIS. CHARITY IS MUCH MORE THAN KINDNESS—IT'S CHRIST'S SACRIFICIAL LOVE FLOWING THROUGH US.

