

Study Lesson Number:30

Which are the chief moral virtues?

The chief moral virtues are prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance; these are called the CARDINAL VIRTUES.

Why are these virtues called CARDINAL VIRTUES?

The virtues are called Cardinal Virtues because they are like hinges on which hang all the other moral virtues and our whole moral life. The word "CARDINAL" is derived from the Latin word "CARDO" meaning hinge.

How do prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance dispose us to lead good lives?

Prudence disposes us in all circumstances to FORM RIGHT JUDGMENTS about what we must do or not do.

Justice disposes us to give everyone what belongs to him.

Fortitude disposes us to do what is good in spite of ANY difficulty.

Temperance disposes us to control our desires and to use rightly the things which please our senses.

Which are some of the other moral virtues?

Some of the other moral virtues are:

Filial piety and patriotism, which dispose us to honor, love, and respect our parents and our country.

Veracity, which disposes us to tell the truth.

Obedience, which disposes us to do the will of our superiors.

Liberality, which disposes us rightly to use worldly goods.

Patience, which disposes us to bear up under trials and difficulties.

Humility, which disposes us to acknowledge our limitations.

Chastity, or purity, which disposes us to be pure in soul and body.

Besides these, there are many other moral virtues.

Discussion questions:

1. Is charity the same thing as giving to the poor?
2. If a man believes only some of the truths that God has revealed, does he have the virtue of faith? If not, why not?
3. What is pleasure? What is happiness? Are pleasure and happiness one and the same thing?
4. Does pleasure bring about happiness? If yes - why? If no - why?
5. If a boy keeps on playing ball when his mother calls him to go to the store, which of the moral virtues is he breaking?
6. Does one have the right to believe what one wishes to believe within himself?
7. If someone says that it is too difficult to become a Saint, what virtue is he lacking?