

The Cardinal Virtues

According to Aristotle, the cardinal virtues are based upon man's nature. Aristotle assumed that man is a rational and social creature. As a result, there are at least four natural virtues that every man needs. These are:

JUSTICE-to give everyone their due

PRUDENCE- practical wisdom

COURAGE-the ability to overcome one's fear

TEMPERANCE- self-control

These are not all of the virtues that there are, but these are the virtues that everyone needs. A deficiency of virtue is a vice.

Christian Ethics

ETHICS (Greek: Ethika) is the science of character. One gains character as a result of watching and imitating someone who already has character. The man of character will consistently act in accordance with virtue. The man of virtue is happier than the vicious man, because he is acting in accordance with his nature.



The cardinal virtues are only natural and are insufficient to make men righteous. The theological virtues are supernatural and are given only to those who belong to Jesus Christ. The virtues of faith and hope grow out of love (charity). A true believer will strive to imitate Jesus Christ and to become more like Him. The result is the happiness that comes from God (blessing).

The Theological Virtues

The theological virtues are special gifts of the Holy Spirit that are given to every believer. They give the believer the power and knowledge to understand and do the will of God as one reads the Bible. Any behavior that is contrary to Christian faith, Christian hope and Christian love is wrong (sinful). To act in accordance with Christian faith, hope and love is to walk in accordance with the Holy Spirit.

- **FAITH**- belief in God and all that He has revealed.
- **HOPE**- the desire for the kingdom of God and eternal life as our happiness.
- **LOVE (charity)**- the love of God and the love of man for God's sake.