

THEME 4, APPENDIX 4

The Virtues: To Live as Jesus Did

- ▶ Because Jesus lived a life of virtue, embodying God's love in his full humanness, he is the model for Christian morality. In Christian theology there are the Theological Virtues and the Cardinal Virtues.

The Theological Virtues: Faith Hope & Love

- ▶ The Theological Virtues are direct gifts from God. They spring from God as gifts and take us to God. The three Theological Virtues are: Faith, Hope, and Love.

Theological Virtues	Description
Faith	▶ Is the virtue that enables one to trust in God's power to bestow new life, even when things are not going so well. It is the surrender of the self to the coming Reign of God.
Hope	▶ Is the virtue by which one takes responsibility for the future in the expectation that God's reign will surely come. It is the belief that good ultimately will triumph over evil.
Love	▶ Is lived faith and hope; it is the crown of all the virtues and an intimate participation in God's life.

The Cardinal Virtues: Wise Judgement, Justice, Courage & Wholeness

- ▶ The Cardinal Virtues are acquired and nurtured through our own efforts and are the building blocks of our character (remember The Character Cycle).
- ▶ There are four Cardinal Virtues (from *cardo*, the Latin word for "hinge"). They stand out because they are powers or abilities that all other virtues hinge upon and will lead us to the good life.

Cardinal Virtues	Description
Wise Judgement (Prudence)	▶ The ability to figure out what is right in a practical situation and to act on it.
Justice	▶ The striving to ensure the well-being of others as well as ourselves.
Courage (Fortitude)	▶ The ability to do what is right (the good) in the face of harm or the threat of injury, whether physical or psychological.
Wholeness (Temperance)	▶ The balancing of all the parts of the self to create a dynamic and harmonious order.