



The Scholé Way with Christopher Perrin

Appendix A: The Cardinal and Intellectual Virtues

Outline:

In this lesson, Dr. Christopher Perrin explores the tradition of virtue ethics, particularly as it relates to education. Drawing from classical and Christian thought, he examines the cardinal, theological, and intellectual virtues and their application to academic life.

"Scholé provides restful space and time in which virtue is most likely to be cultivated, and it is best to say that education seeks to cultivate virtue rather than to teach it."

The Meaning of Virtue in Education

- The Latin roots of virtue (*virtus*) and its connection to human excellence
- The importance of cultivating rather than simply teaching virtue
- The role of imitation in virtue formation

The Four Cardinal Virtues

- *Prudence* – The ability to perceive reality clearly and act accordingly
- *Justice* – Giving each person or task its due
- *Temperance* – Moderating desires and maintaining balance
- *Courage (Fortitude)* – Enduring challenges and overcoming fear

The Theological Virtues

- *Faith, Hope, and Love* as supernatural virtues
- Augustine's definition of the cardinal virtues as perfected through love

The Intellectual Virtues

- *Love* – The foundation of academic pursuit



- *Zeal (Studiosness)* – The eagerness to seek truth
- *Attention* – The discipline of stretching toward an object of study
- *Constancy* – The diligence required for mastery
- *Humility* – Recognizing one's limitations and remaining open to correction

Virtues and Their Opposing Vices

- A comparison of virtues (prudence, justice, temperance, courage, etc.) with their opposing vices (imprudence, laziness, distraction, pride, etc.)
- The necessity of overcoming vice to cultivate true intellectual and moral character

The Role of Virtue in Scholé and Education

- How restful learning fosters the conditions for virtue formation
- The balance of rigorous study with contemplation
- The importance of modeling virtue in the classroom

