

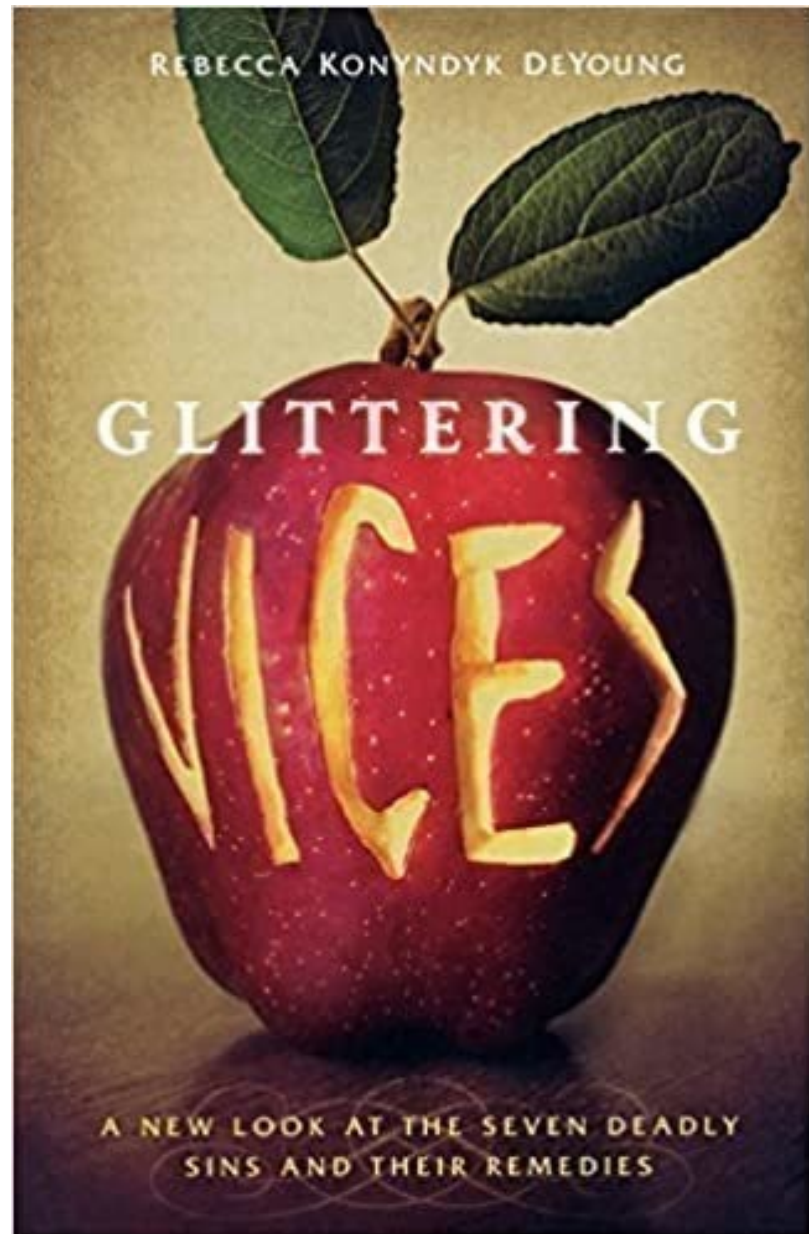
# No Virtue, No Student:

Recovering Virtue as Our Highest Aim

Christopher A. Perrin, M.Div., Ph.D.

# Glittering Vices: Rebecca DeYoung

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# What Is a Student?

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- **Virtuous:** *Virtus* — Fully-developed human capacities

# What Is a Student?

- **Studious**
- **Diligence**
- **Attentive**
- **Ecstatic**
- **Disciplined**
- **Virtuous**

# What Is Virtue?

- *Arete*
- Excellence
- Human capacity fully developed
- *Vir—Virtus*
- *Virile, Virility, Virtue, Virtuous, Virtuosity*

# Kinds of Virtues

**Moral Virtues:** *moralis* (manner, character, proper behavior); avoiding extremes of excess and deficiency

**Civic Virtues:** *civilis* (civil, courteous); cultivation of habits important for the success of a community

**Intellectual Virtues:** *intellectus* (understanding); deep personal qualities or character strengths required for good thinking and learning

# Kinds of Virtues

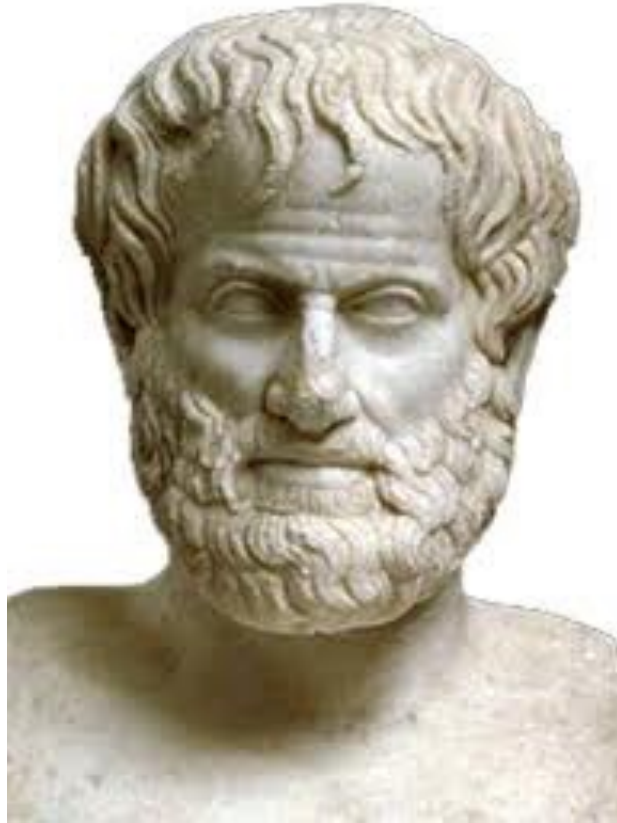
**Cardinal Virtues:** *cardo, cardanis*  
(hinge); four classic, natural, moral  
virtues that humans can cultivate by  
imitation and practice. **Prudence,**  
**Fortitude, Temperance, Justice**

**Theological Virtues:** three supernatural  
virtues that humans can cultivate with  
divine aid. **Faith, Hope, Love**

# Virtue as Habit

# What Is Virtue?

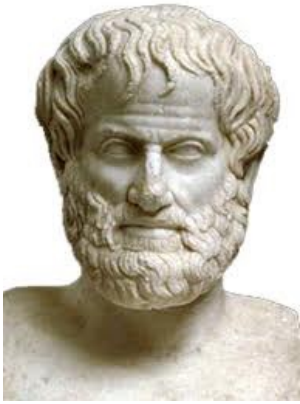
- **Definition of Virtues:** Virtues are dispositional properties along with the concerns and capacities for judgment and action that constitute them. Virtues are deeply embedded parts of our character that readily dispose us to feel, think and act in morally appropriate ways as our changing circumstances require.
- **Plato:** we think with our whole soul; it is not the mind that thinks but the man. S: “How will you manage to think rightly with a sick soul, a heart ravaged by vice, pulled this way and that by passion, dragged astray by violent or guilty love? ...passions and vices relax attention and scatter it, lead it astray, and they injure the judgment in roundabout ways...knowledge depends on the direction given to our passions and on our moral habits.”
- **Compare CS Lewis:** *You don't have a soul—you are a soul. You have a body*



It is by doing just acts that a just man is produced,  
and by doing temperate acts the temperate man.  
--Aristotle

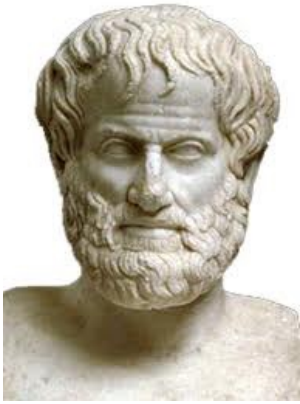


"We are what we repeatedly do.  
Excellence is not an act, but a habit."  
--Will Durant



# Born to.... Know

- Aristotle: all human beings “by nature desire to know” (*Metaphysics*, Book I). All people are born curious.
- Book II of the *Nichomachean Ethics*: Every virtue has two corresponding vices or defects: a vice of deficiency and a vice of excess.

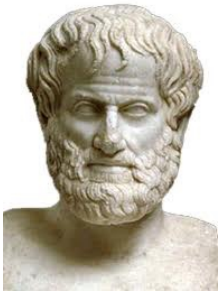


# Extreme—Mean--Extreme

Cowardice

Courage

Rashness



# Deficiency—Mean--Excess

## Aristotle's Concept of the Golden Mean

Deficiency (-)	BALANCE	Excess (+)
cowardice	COURAGE	rashness
stinginess/miserliness	GENEROSITY	extravagance
sloth	AMBITION	greed
humility	MODESTY	pride
secrecy	HONESTY	loquacity
moroseness	GOOD HUMOR	absurdity
quarrelsomeness	FRIENDSHIP	flattery
self-indulgence	TEMPERANCE	insensibility
apathy	COMPOSURE	irritability
indecisiveness	SELF CONTROL	impulsiveness

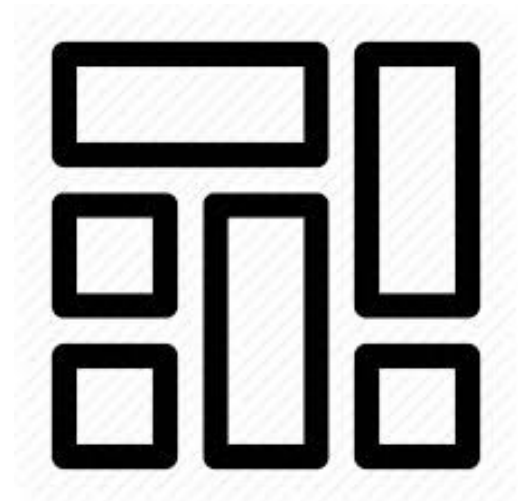
# Habit

- Where one dwells
- ***Habito***: I dwell, reside, abide, live
- Habitation
- Inhabit



# Disposition

- State of mind regarding something
- Inclination
- Prevailing tendency
- ***Dispono***: to set out, arrange



# Discipline

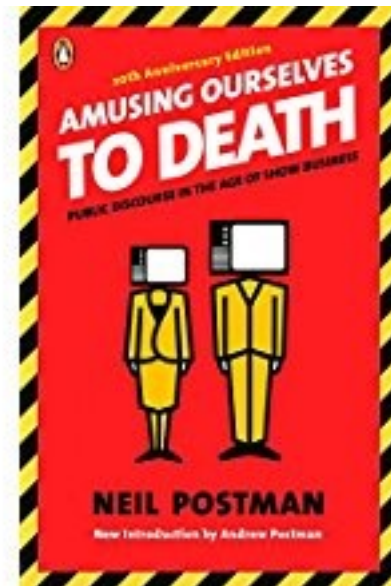
- Training to act in accordance with rules
- A regimen that develops or improves a skill
- ***Disciplina***: system, training, discipline, habits, teaching, instruction
- ***Discipulus***: pupil, apprentice, student



# Intellectual Virtue

# Anti-Intellectual Spirit of Our Age

- Subjective
- Pluralistic
- Individualistic
- Amused



# Anti-Intellectual Spirit of Our Age

- Anti-intellectualism gives rise to the most extreme, the most morally deplorable form of sloth. It is to be found in persons for whom the ultimate objectives in life are the maximization of pleasure, money, fame, or power and who, thus motivated, express their contempt for those who waste their lives in purely intellectual pursuits. It is almost as if they wished they did not have the burden of having intellects that might distract them from their fanatical devotion to nonintellectual aims.
- --Mortimer Adler, *Intellect: Mind over Matter*



# Cardinal John Newman



- 1801-1890
- Priest, professor
- Poet, theologian, cardinal
- *The Idea of a University*

# The Perfection of the Intellect

That perfection of the Intellect which is the result of education, and its beau ideal, to be imparted in their respective measures, is the clear, calm, accurate vision and comprehension of all things, as far as the fine mind can embrace them, each in its place, and with its own characteristics upon it.

--John Henry Newman

It is almost prophetic from its knowledge of history; it is almost heart-searching from its knowledge of human nature; it has almost supernatural charity from its freedom from littleness and prejudice; it has almost the repose of faith, because nothing can startle it; it has almost the beauty and harmony of heavenly contemplation, so intimate is it with the eternal order of things and the music of the spheres.

# Newman

1. **Clear, calm, accurate vision**
2. **Comprehension** of all things
3. Each in its place
4. With its own characteristics
5. **Prophetic** from history
6. **Heart-searching** from knowl. of human nature
7. **Supernatural charity** from lack or prejudice
8. **Repose of faith** because it can't be startled
9. **Beauty and harmony** because of contemplating harmony

# Ordered Harmony

- *Ordiri*: Weave, row of threads in a loom
- Rightly order the city, the church, the school
- Rightly order the soul
- Ordered Loves / *Ordo Amoris*





# Augustine

- But living a just and holy life requires one to be capable of an objective and impartial evaluation of things: to love things, that is to say, in the right order, so that you do not love what is not to be loved, or fail to love what is to be loved, or have a greater love for what should be loved less, or an equal love for things that should be loved less or more, or a lesser or greater love for things that should be loved equally. (*On Christian Doctrine*, I.27-28)

# Intellectual Vices and Virtues

Vices	Virtues
Sloth	Love
Sensuality	Humility
Pride	Constancy/Studiousness
Envy	Patience
Irritation	Perseverance/Courage
	Prayer

# Intellectual Vices

**DISORDERED PASSIONS:** Prevent and hinder the acquisition of knowledge.

- Passions and vices relax attention
- Passions and vices injure judgment
- Knowledge depends on the direction given to our passions and on our moral habits

# Intellectual Vices

- **Sloth:** The grave of the best gifts (because they are not used)
- **Sensuality:** Makes the body weak and lethargic, befogs the imagination, dulls the intelligence, scatters the memory

# Intellectual Vices

- **Pride:** Sometimes dazzles and sometimes darkens, so drives us in the direction of our own opinion that the universal sense escapes us
- **Envy:** Obstinate refusal to acknowledge some light other than our own
- **Irritation:** Which repels criticism and comes to grief on the rock of error

# Intellectual Vices

- **Vices Gang Up:** they bring one another...lead to one another, are interconnected.
- **Antidote:** Purity of thought requires purity of soul.

# Combatting Vices

- **Virtues Unite Too:** The True and the Good are interconnected, dwell together at the summit to which we climb. We climb and labor out of a love for the truth, which is always connected to what is good.

# Civic Virtues and Vices

# Civic Virtues

- **Civilized Behavior**
- **Discourse/Conversation/Agreement**
- **Contribution/Work**
- **Staying Informed**
- **Generosity**

# Civic Virtues

On my honor I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and my country  
and to obey the Scout Law;  
To help other people at all times;  
To keep myself physically strong,  
mentally awake, and morally straight.

# Civic Virtues

A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly,  
Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty,  
Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

# Moral Virtues and Vices

# Moral Virtues and Vices

Virtue ◆	Latin ◆	Gloss ◆	Sin ◆	Latin ◆
Chastity	<i>Castitas</i>	Purity, abstinence	Lust	<i>Luxuria</i>
Temperance	<i>Temperantia</i>	Humanity, equanimity	Gluttony	<i>Gula</i>
Charity	<i>Caritas</i>	Will, benevolence, generosity, sacrifice	Greed	<i>Avaritia</i>
Diligence	<i>Industria</i>	Persistence, effortfulness, ethics	Sloth	<i>Acedia</i>
Patience	<i>Patientia</i>	Forgiveness, mercy	Wrath	<i>Ira</i>
Kindness	<i>Humanitas</i>	Satisfaction, compassion	Envy	<i>Invidia</i>
Humility	<i>Humilitas</i>	Bravery, modesty, reverence	Pride	<i>Superbia</i>

# Moral Virtues and Vices

Capital Sins

Fountain Sins

Root Sins

Source Sins

Deadly Sins

“When good things are wrongly pursued, sin happens.”

# The Four Cardinal Virtues



**Prudence**

**Justice**

**Fortitude**

**Temperance**



# The Four Cardinal Virtues

1. Good that exists by the act of reason: **Prudence**
2. Good put into order in operations: **Justice**
3. Good imposed into order by curbing passions: **Temperance**
4. Good imposed into order by strengthening against fear: **Fortitude**





# The Four Cardinal Virtues

**Prudence:** All reality

**Justice:** Fellow man

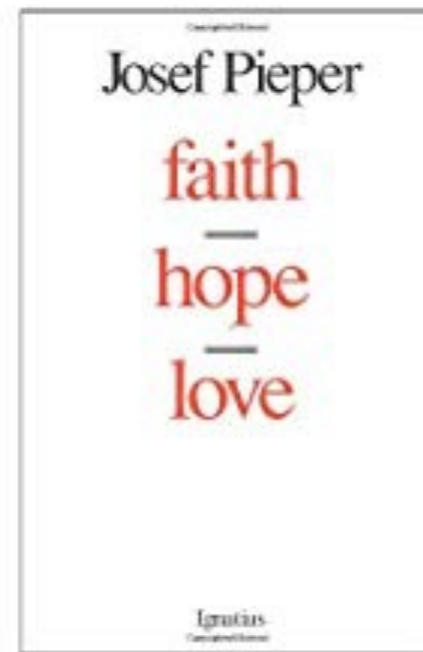
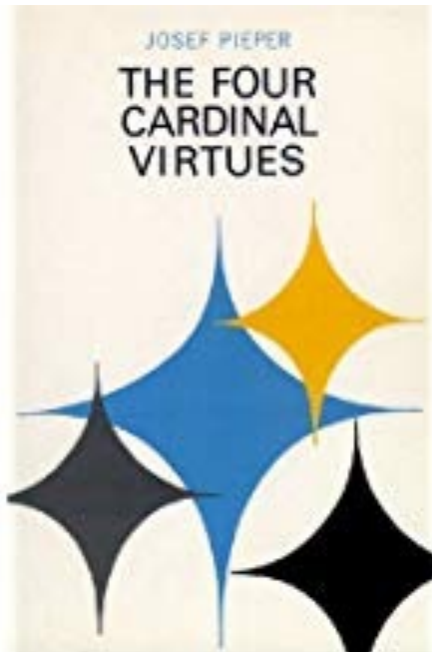
**Fortitude:** Possessions, outer life

**Temperance:** Man himself, inner life





# Josef Pieper





# The Four Cardinal Virtues as Love

For these four virtues ... I should have no hesitation in defining them: that **temperance** is love giving itself entirely to that which is loved; **fortitude** is love readily bearing all things for the sake of the loved object; **justice** is love serving only the loved object and therefore ruling rightly; **prudence** is love distinguishing with sagacity between what hinders it and what helps it. (*De moribus eccl.*, Chap. xv)



# Three Theological Virtues

Faith

Hope

Love



# Virtues in Art









Temperance



Fortitude



Prudence



Justice



















# Master Virtues: Love

## Proverbs 2

1. My son, if you accept my words  
and store up my commands within you,
2. turning your ear to wisdom  
and applying your heart to understanding,
3. and if you call out for insight  
and cry aloud for understanding,
4. and if you look for it as for silver  
and search for it as for hidden treasure,
5. then you will understand the fear of the LORD  
and find the knowledge of God.

# Master Virtues: Love

- John 5:41-42: I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts....I have come in my Father's name and you do not accept me. How can you believe if you accept praise from one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God? **MORAL→**  
**INTELLECTUAL**
- John 7:17: If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.

# Master Virtues: Love

- John 8: If you hold to my teachings you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth shall set you free (over the library at the Univ. of VA).
- Jer. 29:13: You will seek me and find me...when you seek me with all your heart...I will be found by you.
- Matthew: 7: 7: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

# Master Virtues: Love

- In religious and moral realms: If one loves the truth, one will do the truth one knows; if one does the truth one knows, one will be rewarded with more truth.
- THEREFORE: Obey what we know.
- Students: Use your rhetoric, logic, etc. Use your writing skill.  
Frustrated Teacher: You know that...I taught you that!  
Think...Recollect...Call up...Do what you know.
- Other Subjects: Athletics, Music, Language, Martial Arts
- Matt. 25: Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.



# Unity of the True and Good

- **LOVE:** Love is the source of unity of life... “Tell me what you love and I will tell you what you are.”  
Truth visits those who love her.
- **THE GOOD:** The true springs up in the same soil as the good—their roots communicate



# Multiplication of Virtue

- **LINKAGE OF TRUTH TO TRUTH:** By doing the good we know. All truths are linked together—when we pay that homage by living the truth of life, we draw near to the supreme light and to all that flows from it. By practicing what we know we merit the truth we don't know. If I embark on the tributary, I reach the river, and then the sea.



# Orientation of the Virtues

- **PYRAMID OF THE GOOD AND TRUE:** Each one face of the pyramid leading up to God. Pursuing God eliminates pride, etc.



# The Chief Virtue: Humility

- Height is the measure of littleness. Always conscious of the immensity of the true and of the slenderness of our resources, we shall not undertake anything beyond our power. We shall rejoice then, in what has been given us in our measure.
- Humility: We simply cannot know what don't know unless someone who knows what we can't know tells us.



# The Chief Virtue: Humility

- Response to Smart People: Progress requires peace and cooperation; greatly hindered by pettiness of mind. In face of other's superiority, there is only one honorable attitude, to be glad of it, and then it becomes our own joy, our own good fortune.

# The Chief Virtue: Humility

- **Others Are More Important:** Compare to Phil 2: Regard others as more important than yourselves...
- **Entertain Other Thoughts:** Never ignore, refuse what may be thought against your own thought. Never unduly prefer one's own opinion.
- **Guard Your Conclusions:** What we have won by study and considered carefully must be guarded against unjustified second thoughts and scruples.

# The Chief Virtue: Humility

- **Acknowledge Your Limitations:** Don't over-extend one's field of research.
- **Acknowledge Limitation of Reason:** Reason cannot do everything. It's last step is to recognize its limitations. Compare Pascal: The heart has its reasons, the reason of which reason knows nothing.
- **Your Mind is a Tool:** The intellect is only a tool: the handling of it determines the nature of its effects.

# Intellectual Virtues: Virtues Proper to the Student

- **Temperance/Studiousness**
- **Constancy**
- **Patience**
- **Perseverance/Courage**

# Intellectual Virtues: Virtues Proper to the Student

- **Temperance/Studiousness:** temper our studies
- **Excess:** Excess in negligence
- **Excess:** Excess in vain curiosity/ambition (**Studium** versus **Curiositas**)
- **Balance:** Study needs to be balanced with other duties/responsibilities
- **Excess:** Going beyond one's powers: leads to errors and waste of capacity:
  - Go to the sea by the streams, not directly
  - If you want to see things grow big, plant small
  - Start at the beginning, master each step
- **Constancy:** which keeps steadily at the task
- **Patience:** which bears difficulties well
- **Perseverance/Courage:** which prevents the will from flagging

# Prayer

- But study must leave room for worship, prayer and direct meditation on the things of God. **A divine office:** it seeks out and honors the traces of the creator or his images—it must make way at the right moment for direct intercourse with him.
- The order of the mind must correspond to the order of things. In the world of reality, everything rises toward the divine, everything depends on it.
- Every study is a study of eternity
- Behind all our dependence is study of eternity
- Behind all our dependences is the primal dependence
  - Supreme Bond
  - The Gift
  - The Spring
  - The Heart

# Prayer

- Must not the mind refer back to it unceasingly, and never for a minute lose touch with what is thus the ALL of all things, and consequently of all knowledge?
- Each truth is a fragment which does not stand alone but reveals connections on every side. Truth in itself is one and Truth is God.
- One might say a particular truth is only a symbol, a symbol that is real, a sacrament of the absolute....it is a sign, but not of itself...it live by what it borrows.
- We retrace the footsteps of the Divine Walker.
- ***Study = Prayer for the Truth***

# Another Helpful Chart

## **Starting/Beginning Study**

- Curiosity
- Intellectual Humility
- Intellectual Autonomy

## **Executing Well**

- Attentiveness
- Intellectual Carefulness
- Intellectual Thoroughness

Intellectual Virtues Academy  
[www.intellectualvirtues.org](http://www.intellectualvirtues.org)

## **Handling Challenges**

- Open-Mindedness
- Intellectual Courage
- Intellectual Tenacity

# The Intellectual Virtues: The Cultivation of Right Educational Habits

How to Teach the Virtues

# Chart of Virtues

## **Acquisition Virtues:**

**passion for truth**

inquisitiveness

teachableness

persistence

humility

## **Application Virtues:**

**passion for holiness**

will to do what one knows

love

fortitude

integrity

humility

## **Maintenance Virtues:**

**passion for consistency**

perseverance

courage

constancy

tenacity

patience

humility

## **Communication Virtues:**

**compassion for others**

clarity of expression

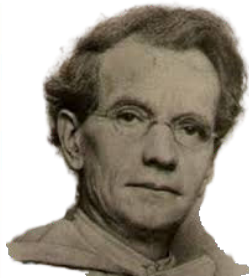
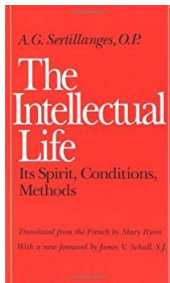
orderliness of presentation

aptness of illustration

humility

# Intellectual Vices and Virtues

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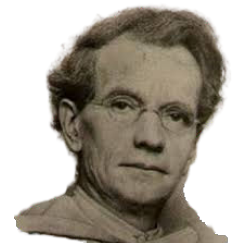


# Body and Mind

- Minds can only communicate through the body; first then, do not be ashamed to endeavor to keep well. "A sound mind in a sound body." Sound hygiene, is almost for you and intellectual virtue.
- S: Open air, deep breathing, rhythmic stretching, frequent walks (before and after work). EVERY DAY YOU SHOULD TAKE EXERCISE. Those who do not take time to exercise must take time to be ill. Easy manual work. Take time for real vacations = the predominance of rest, fresh air, and exercise out of doors.
- Diet: Light and moderate.
- Sleep: Neither too much nor too little.
- For an intellectual/thinker: The care of the body, which is the instrument of the soul is virtue and wisdom.

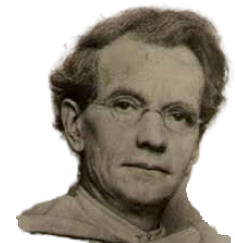
# The Organization of One's Life

- **Simplify:** beware of society-life; Vocation is concentration
- **Solitude:** Exterior and Interior: Thomas: "I want you to be slow to speaking and slow to going to the parlor. Don't not busy yourself about the words and actions of those in the world" (= People magazine) Avoid useless outings above everything. Love your cell, if you desire to be admitted to the wine-cellar"
- **Quiet Recollection.** Solitude and silence. Without retirement there is no inspiration. Peace—the tranquility of order, puts order in your thoughts, feelings and investigations. Compare Jesus: he preserved his solitude. Great discoveries are but the reflections on facts common to all. 77
- **Friends/Fellows:** kinship of minds. Friendship: Friendship is an obstetric art; it draws out our riches and deepest resources; it unfolds the wings of our dreams and hidden indeterminate thoughts; it serves as a check on our judgments, tries out our new ideas, keeps up our ardor, and inflames our enthusiasm. (Cf. Lewis, Tolkien, Williams)



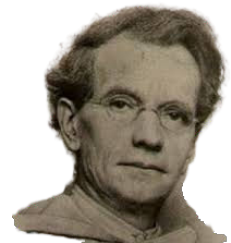
# Excursus on Solitude: Frame of Mind & Spirit

- **WITHDRAW/ACT:** ZONE OF SILENCE: Do you want to do intellectual work? Begin by creating within you a zone of silence, a habit of recollection, a will to renunciation and detachment which puts you entirely at the disposal of the work.
- **APPLICATION:** Music, space, homework
- **Ecstasy**: Intellectual work begins by a moment of ecstasy—only in the second place does the talent of arrangement, the technique of transitions, connection of ideas come into play. Now what is this ecstasy but a flight upwards, away from self, a forgetting to live our poor life, in order that the object of our delight may live in our thought and in our heart?
- **Meditating** on the truth of our eternity—that our true being lies...revealed to us only in the silence of our souls—that is in the exclusion of foolish thoughts which lead to a puerile and dissipating indulgence in distraction in the repression of the murmured suggestions that our disordered passions never weary of uttering



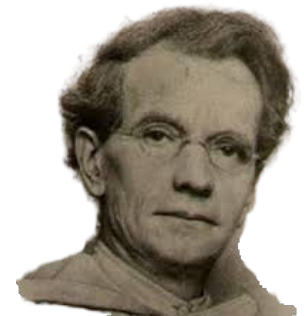
# Rest and Joy

- PASCAL: The whole calamity of man comes from one single thing, that he cannot keep quiet in a room.
- THOMAS: contemplation begins in love and ends in joy; it begins in the love of the object and the love of knowledge as an act of life; it ends in the joy of ideal possession and of the ecstasy it causes. 255  
“To see the order of the universe and the dispositions of divine Providence is an eminently delightful activity.” ..To think God’s thought after him, walk after the Divine Walker.
- Rest to S: Giving up all effort and withdrawing to the Fount of Life...a return to our origins, the origins of life, of strength, of inspiration...Can include restful activities, recreation, conversation, etc.



# Intellectual Disciplines

- Solitude
- Time
- Attention
- Lateral Thinking
- Prayer



# Taxonomy of Intellectual Virtues

## STARTING STUDY

- **Curiosity:** a disposition to wonder, ponder, and ask why. A thirst for understanding and a desire to explore. **Slogan:** Ask questions!
- **Intellectual humility:** a willingness to “own” one’s intellectual limitations and mistakes. Unconcerned with intellectual status or prestige. **Slogan:** Admit what you don’t know!
- **Intellectual autonomy:** a capacity for active, self-directed thinking. An ability to think and reason for oneself. **Slogan:** Think for yourself!

# Taxonomy of Intellectual Virtues

## EXECUTING WELL

- **Attentiveness:** a capacity for being “present” while learning. Notices and attends to important details. **Slogan:** Look and listen!
- **Intellectual carefulness:** a sensitivity to the requirements of good thinking. Quick to notice and avoid intellectual pitfalls and mistakes. **Slogan:** Avoid errors!
- **Intellectual thoroughness:** a willingness to probe for deeper meaning and understanding. Unsatisfied with mere appearances or easy answers. **Slogan:** Go deep!

# Taxonomy of Intellectual Virtues

## HANDLING CHALLENGES

- **Open-mindedness:** an ability to think outside the box. Gives a fair and honest hearing to competing perspectives. **Slogan:** Think outside the box!
- **Intellectual courage:** a readiness to persist in thinking or communicating in the face of fear, including fear of embarrassment or failure. **Slogan:** Take risks!
- **Intellectual tenacity:** a willingness to embrace intellectual challenge and struggle. Keeps its “eyes on the prize” and doesn’t give up. **Slogan:** Embrace struggle!