



## The Principles of Classical Pedagogy

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### Lesson 10: Educational Virtue 2 – Cultivating Habits of Learning

#### Outline:

##### What is Virtue?

- **Definition of Virtues:** Virtues are dispositional properties along with the concerns and capacities for judgement 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.
- Habits, disciplines, routines of the mind, will, spirit, and body
- **Definition of Virtue:** The health of the soul.

##### Cultivation of Humanity

- We should love, praise, and admire what is true, good, and beautiful.
- We should not praise what is unlovely, ugly, and not good.

##### Definition of Classical Education

- CCE is a traditional approach to education rooted in western civilization and culture, developed by the church, grounded in piety and governed by theology, employing the historic curriculum and pedagogy of the seven liberal arts in order to cultivate men and women characterized by **wisdom, virtue, and eloquence**.
  - The end goal is considered to be virtue along with wisdom and eloquence.
  - The cultivation of virtue is both a means and an end.

##### Ordered Harmony

- We want to have students' souls mirror the harmony that they see in world itself.
- “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.” Augustine, *On Christian Doctrine*, 1.27-28

##### Children Need *Paideia*

- What project is more important than our children?



- A paideia is the cultivation of souls.
- In Ephesians 6:4, Paul uses the word paideia. “Fathers do not exasperate your children, but raise them up in the *paideia* of the Lord.”

### Before Virtue Can Grow

- **Have a call or vocation:** As a seeker of truth, vocation calls for a response, which one hears and consents and commits to. It implies a serious resolution...like that of an athlete. A.G. Sertillanges
- **Stoked desire or ecstasy:** Every intellectual work begins by a moment of ecstasy...Now what is ecstasy but a flight upwards, away from self, a forgetting to live our own poor life, in order that the object of our delight may live in our thought and in our heart. **Ek-stasis:** out of one’s ordinary foot hold. A.G. Sertillanges
- **Desire an education:** Education is a mental training, that is the drawing out and unfolding of a soul, a soul that is unique, that has not had or will have its like in all the ages, for God does not repeat himself.
- **Desire knowledge:** What is knowledge but the slow and gradual cure of our blindness?
- **Love:** Love of God, love of neighbor, love of truth and goodness, which dwell in and issue forth from God himself. Thinking God’s thoughts after him. Walking in the path of the Divine Walker. **You study what you love.** We love truth, and then truth begins to visit us.

### Kinds of Virtues

- **Moral Virtues:** From the Latin, *moralis*, moral virtues mean manner, character, and proper behavior. From the Aristotelian tradition it means avoiding extremes of excess and deficiency.
  - Courage avoids both brashness and cowardice.
- **Civic Virtues:** From the Latin, *civilis*, meaning civil and courteous. Cultivation of habits important for the success of a community.
  - Being fair-minded and willing to serve and sacrifice for your neighbor.
- **Intellectual Virtues:** From the Latin, *intellectus*, meaning understanding. Deep personal qualities of character, strengths required for good thinking and learning.
- **Cardinal Virtues:** The four classic virtues that humans can cultivate by imitation and practice are **Prudence, Fortitude, Temperance, and Justice.**
- **Theological Virtues:** Three supernatural virtues that humans can cultivate with divine aid. They were **Faith, Hope, and Love.**

### 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>

## The Four Cardinal Virtues

- **Thomas Aquinas**
  - **Prudence:** Good that exists by the act of reason.
  - **Justice:** Good put into order in operations.
  - **Fortitude:** Good imposed into order by strengthening against fear.
  - **Temperance:** Good imposed into order by curbing the passions.
- **Josef Pieper**
  - **Prudence:** Reflects all reality.
  - **Justice:** Directed toward fellow man.
  - **Fortitude:** How we focus on our outer life.
  - **Temperance:** How we focus on our inner life.
- **Augustine**
  - 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** to 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, and Love
- The greatest of these is love.
- The cardinal virtues came into their own by being infused by love. They were embodied by love.

## Four Cardinal Virtues, personified by women in art

- **Temperance:** To properly mix is discernment.
- **Prudence:** Pictured with a mirror because she is self-aware. Often has a face facing forwards and backwards.
- **Fortitude:** Holding an oak branch, endures challenges and overcomes fear.
- **Justice:** Woman with eyes closed holding a scale and holding a sword in her hand that she might wisely and justly meet out punishment.

## Intellectual Vices and Virtues

Vices	Virtues
Sloth	Love



Sensuality	Humility
Pride	Constancy/Studiousness
Envy	Patience
Irritation	Perseverance/Courage
	Prayer

## Intellectual Vices

- **Sloth:** The grave of the best gifts (because they are not used). If we do not use our capacities they diminish.
- **Sensuality:** When we do not have our love properly aligned it makes the body weak and lethargic, befogs the imagination, dulls the intelligence, scatters them memory.
- **Pride:** Sometimes dazzles and sometimes darkens, so drives us in the direction of our own opinion that the universal sense escapes us.
- **Envy:** Obstinate refused to acknowledge some light other than our own.
- **Irritation:** Which repels criticism and comes to grief on the rock of error.
- **Vices Gang Up:** They bring one another...lead to one another, and they are interconnected.
- **Antidote:** Purity of thought requires purity of soul.

## Master Virtues: Love

- **Proverbs 2:** Students have to hear a call and respond with a call, calling out for understand.
- **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.
  - There has to be a will that is oriented toward the truth and the author of all that is true.
- **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.
- **Jeremiah 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.
- **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.
- **Matthew 25:** Take the talent from him and give it to the one who as 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 the 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.
  - There is a progression to deeper, greater knowledge.
  - Do our students understand how education proceeds?

## The Chief Virtue: Humility

- **Height is the measure of littleness.** Always conscious of the immensity of the true and 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 we don't know unless someone who knows what we can't know tell us.
- **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.
- **Others Are More Important:** Compare to Philippians 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.
- **Acknowledge Your Limitations:** Don't overextend one's field of research.
- **Acknowledge Limitation of Reason:** Reason cannot do everything. Its 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:** Study needs to be balanced with other duties/responsibilities.



- **Constancy:** That 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 a study of eternity.
- Behind all our dependences is the primal dependence.
- 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.
- 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 all knowledge?
- 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 lives by what it borrows.
- We **retrace the footsteps** of the Divine Walker.
- **Study = Prayer for the Truth**

## Chart of Virtues, James Sire, *Habits of the Mind*

- **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

## Another Helpful Chart, Intellectual Virtues Academy

- **Starting/Beginning Study**
  - Curiosity
  - Intellectual Humility
  - Intellectual Autonomy
- **Executing Well**
  - Attentiveness
  - Intellectual Carefulness
  - Intellectual Thoroughness



- **Handling Challenges**
  - Open-Mindedness
  - Intellectual Courage
  - Intellectual Tenacity