

Study Guide: The Virtues

To study the topic on the Church's teaching about the virtues and their practice, consult the paragraphs indicated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC). **Note that the "In Brief" sections of the Catechism may help answer the questions below.**

1. How does the Catechism define a *virtue*? What are some of the benefits of virtue? (CCC 1803, 1804)
2. How is virtue related to passion? Is virtue opposed to emotion? (CCC 1763-1770)
3. What is the connection between *vice* and *sin*? Why is sin so vicious in terms of its effects on the person? (CCC 1865, 817)
4. What are the *cardinal* virtues? Why are they called "cardinal"? (CCC 1805)
5. What is the role of *prudence* in the Christian life? Why is prudence the opposite of timidity? (CCC 1806)
6. How does the Catechism define the virtue of *justice*? What is the name of the virtue that is defined as "justice toward God"? (CCC 1807)
7. What does *fortitude* do for the Christian? (CCC 1808)
8. How does the Catechism define *temperance*? How is this definition different from what you may have thought it was? (CCC 1809)
9. If the moral virtues are acquired by human effort, how is grace involved? (CCC 1810-1811)

10. Why are certain virtues called “theological”? What makes them theological? (CCC 1812-1813)

11. How does the Catechism define the virtue of *faith*? How is faith more than a mental exercise? (CCC 1814-1816)

12. How does the Catechism explain the virtue of *hope*? If hope is oriented to the future, how does it operate in the present life? (CCC 1817-1821)

13. How does the Catechism define the virtue of *charity*? What is the relationship between charity and the keeping of the commandments? (CCC 1822-1825)

14. What is the relationship between charity and the practice of the virtues? What about the moral life in general? (CCC 1826-1828)

15. What are the fruits of charity? That is, what does charity do for the person who practices it? (CCC 1829, 1832)

16. The catechism places the virtue of *chastity* under the cardinal virtue of temperance. Why? How come chastity is so difficult? (CCC 2338-2345)

17. What is the relationship between chastity and friendship? What forms of chastity does the Catechism highlight? (CCC 2346-2347, 2348-2350)