

CORRELATION TO THE VIRTUES

The Christian Teachings of Virtue (Series 2, Part 2, Teaching #10)

Instructions: Watch video, read aloud, underline what stands out to you most, discuss



Leader Guide...

See the back page for detailed facilitator instructions.

The illustration of the horse and chariot reminds us that the soul is meant to move, to be led, to carry us somewhere. But it also reminds us that not all movement is progress. Only when our passions are rightly directed—under the guidance of our intellect and the strength of our will—can our lives move in the direction of true goodness.

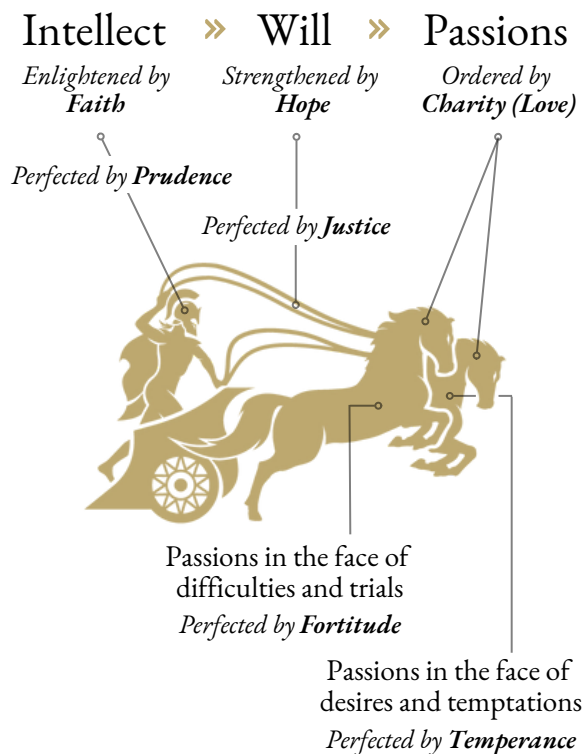
The seven chief virtues correlate to each part of the horse and chariot. The intellect, the charioteer of the soul, is perfected by the virtue of *prudence*—which enables one to know and direct what is right. The will, represented by the reins, is perfected by the virtue of *justice*—which enables one to do and uphold what is right. The passions, symbolized by the powerful horses, are perfected by the virtues of *fortitude*—which enables one to endure difficulties and trials—and *temperance*—which enables one to moderate desires and temptations. And all are perfected and elevated by grace through the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity.

Principally, *faith* enlightens the intellect, helping one see as God sees. *Hope* strengthens the will, so one can endure any struggle, knowing their ultimate hope is in Heaven. *Charity* orders the passions out of love and not pride. For example, when Jesus flipped the tables in the temple to halt sin, He did it out of love—not pride—demonstrating the righteous and controlled passion of anger to confront sin and stop evil. For it is said, “He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it” (Martin Luther King, Jr.). Love stands against evil.

So when you meet one whose choices are consistently wise, whose actions are always honorable, who suffers without breaking, who enjoys without overindulging, and who deeply believes in, hopes for, and loves like Christ—you are seeing a soul formed in virtue. You are seeing what it means to be fully alive, fully human, fully aligned with God’s will.

But remember: this life of virtue is not powered by human effort alone. Scripture warns us, “Human wisdom, brilliance, insight—they are of no help if the Lord is against you. You can get horses ready for battle, but it is the Lord who gives victory” (Proverbs 21:30–31).

Thus, do not run a good race to earn God’s love—it is already given. Pursue virtue not to win salvation, for that is already won by grace through faith. Do it to live in harmony with the One who saved you. To pursue the virtuous life is to cooperate with grace, to say “yes” to God at every turn, and to let the Holy Spirit guide the way—so you are not dragged through life by wild passions, but moved with purpose, strength, and joy, ever closer to the heart of God.



Watch Video: Scan the QR code to access the video for this teaching as well as additional resources such as related Scripture, quotes, and more. Or, visit horseandchariot.com/correlation-to-the-virtues



This teaching unveils how each part of the soul—intellect, will, and passions—is perfected through the chief virtues. You were made to move, but not aimlessly. When your entire being is formed by virtue and fueled by grace, your soul becomes a powerful instrument of God’s will.

1. Grow in virtue where you are weakest. Each soul-part must be perfected to move in harmony. → Which part of your soul—intellect, will, or passions—needs the most virtue right now?

2. Let prudence guide your intellect. You cannot choose rightly if you do not think rightly. → Are you seeking wisdom daily to guide your thoughts and judgments?

3. Let justice rule your will. Right action begins with a heart committed to what’s right. → Are your choices aligned with what is just, even when no one is watching?

4. Let fortitude and temperance train your passions. Strength and restraint make your emotions holy. → Are you enduring suffering with courage? Are you moderating desires with discipline?

5. Let faith, hope, and charity elevate all. These virtues don’t replace the others—they raise them to Heaven. → Are your thoughts, choices, and emotions infused with belief, trust, and love?

6. Run with grace, not for approval. Virtue is not about earning—it’s about alignment. → Are you pursuing holiness to glorify God, or to prove something to yourself or others?

CHARACTERISTICS OF A VIRTUOUS SOUL

A soul rightly formed by the theological and cardinal virtues will shine with these qualities:

1. Wisdom. Their intellect is guided by divine prudence, not opinion.

2. Integrity. Their will consistently chooses the good, even when difficult.

3. Balance. Their passions are strong but steady—fueled, not ruled, by emotion.

4. Faithfulness. Their life is anchored in God’s truth and grace.

5. Purpose. Every action is directed by love and aimed at eternity.

6. Dependence on Grace. They do not boast in virtue, but walk humbly with God.

Signs of a Disordered Soul...

- You live by impulse or analysis alone, but not both together
- You pursue good works without anchoring them in grace
- Your emotions run unchecked or are coldly suppressed
- You rely on virtue for self-image rather than transformation
- You neglect one virtue while overcompensating with another
- Your faith is intellectual but not heartfelt—or vice versa

Think: Every part of me was created to be made whole by virtue and elevated by grace. I cannot will myself into holiness, but I can say yes to grace—again and again. When I think with wisdom, act with justice, feel with holy passion, and trust God above all, I become who I was made to be: a soul in motion toward Heaven.

Pray: Lord, perfect my soul. Strengthen my intellect with prudence, my will with justice, and my passions with fortitude and temperance. Enlighten my mind with faith, uphold my spirit with hope, and flood my heart with charity. Keep me from prideful striving and root me in Your grace. I do not want to move by impulse or self-effort, but by Your Spirit. Align every part of me to Your will, so my life may be an offering of love, ordered in virtue, and guided by Your hand. Amen.

SELF-EVALUATION & ACTION STEP

Of the areas you underlined throughout this teaching, which stood out to you most and why?
(Reflect, write down, discuss)

Rate yourself from 1-10

1 = My soul often feels misaligned and out of sync
10 = My soul consistently feels ordered in virtue

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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← (avoid 5) →

Why did you give yourself this rating?
(Which area feels weakest right now—your intellect, will, or passions?)

What benefits will you obtain from raising your rating? (Consider how greater harmony in the soul might impact your relationships and walk with God)

Of the seven chief virtues, which one do you feel most called to grow in right now and why?

What specific action step will you take this week to better align your soul—through strengthening your intellect in truth, your will in justice, or your passions in grace?

Daily Affirmation: Today, I choose to live a life shaped by virtue. My intellect will be guided by prudence, my will by justice, and my passions by temperance and fortitude. Faith, hope, and charity will elevate every part of my soul toward God.

FACILITATOR INSTRUCTIONS

Courageous Facilitator,

Your willingness to step forward and lead is a gift of grace to your community and a brave act of faith. God bless you for answering the call to inspire others to grow in virtue and pursue the character of Christ.

The Holy Spirit thrives in fellowship and community, working powerfully through the connections and shared experiences of small groups. That's why these lesson plans are designed to cultivate genuine relationships, inspire meaningful conversations, and foster a spirit of transformation through shared wisdom and grace.

Facilitating these lessons is both simple and impactful. While many forms of teaching rely on one-way communication, where one person speaks and others listen, true transformation happens through two-way communication. In this format, ideas aren't merely taught—they're explored together. You'll guide, but everyone will share and learn from one another, creating a rich environment where the Holy Spirit can move and grow each mind, heart, and soul.

These lesson plans succeed because they:

- **Encourage connection** in a collaborative small group setting that fosters action and accountability
- **Empower every voice** with opportunities for each participant to share and contribute
- **Inspire growth** through educational, inspirational, and transformational teachings

Your role as a facilitator is to:

- **Follow the instructions and trust the process**—the wheel is already built, you're here to guide it.
- **Honor the schedule** by being punctual and respecting the time of your group.
- **Lead with love** and rely on God's grace to inspire, guide, and uplift everyone in the group.

Your courage to create a space for growth and fellowship will not only bless others but will deepen your own journey of faith and virtue. Together, with God's help, lives will be transformed.

To God be the glory!

FACILITATOR CHECKLIST

1. Getting Started (5-10 mins)

- ☐ Give everyone a few minutes to join before getting started. Be friendly and greet people as they arrive. Get them talking! Come prepared with some good ice-breaker questions you can ask during this time.
- ☐ 3-5 minutes in, do quick introductions for anyone new to the group. What brought them to the group? Spend a moment getting to know them.
- ☐ Open with a short prayer (facilitator or volunteer).

2. Watch & Read the Teaching (5-10 mins)

- ☐ Watch the video of the teaching as a group.
- ☐ Have a volunteer read all of page 1. Have others follow along and underline what stands out to them most.

3. How it Applies (5-10 mins)

- ☐ Have a volunteer read all of page 2. Have others follow along and underline what stands out to them most.

4. Reflection & Discussion (20-30 mins)

- ☐ Have everyone quietly take 5 minutes to complete the "Self-Evaluation & Action Step" on page 3.
- ☐ Then, going around the group, have each person take a minute to share what stood out to them most about the teaching and why.
- ☐ If time allows, continue the discussion using the remaining self-evaluation questions as a guide.

5. Wrap Up (5 mins)

- ☐ Remind everyone to do the daily affirmation until you meet again next time.
- ☐ Ask for any prayer requests from the group.
- ☐ Close with a short prayer (facilitator or volunteer).