

*Virtue quite often goes against the flow.*



Featuring this month~

## Virtue

*vs. impurity*

**"Demonstrating honesty and integrity in my life by doing what is right."**

**I will:**

- ◆ Do what is right and encourage others to do the same.
- ◆ Guard my eyes, ears, words, and thoughts.
- ◆ Learn to stand alone.
- ◆ Abstain from anything which might damage or pollute my mind or body.
- ◆ Treat others as I would want them to treat me.

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### What is Virtue?

The word virtue comes from a Latin word "vir," meaning a mature adult man and the related word "virtus," meaning strength. In other words, virtue means mature strength, based on integrity.

A person of integrity does not need to defend or proclaim his virtue; instead, it flows from him in many small actions and decisions that will be seen by many.

Virtue will manifest itself in different character qualities, depending on the situation-truthfulness, patience, sincerity, obedience, etc. In fact, it could be considered the total of all the character qualities put together.

People of virtue constitute the strength and protection for a society. Without virtue, a culture begins to unravel. People of virtue have carefully guarded what input comes into their lives so that what comes out in word and action will be consistent and right. By example, they encourage others to live lives of integrity. They are often made leaders, because they earn confidence from others that they can be trusted to make right, wise decisions.

*"The time is always right to do what is right."  
--Martin Luther King*

### Building Virtue

Try to form a grid of character qualities by which to evaluate choices and actions. Ask yourself: would this action be honest? responsible? deferential?

Practicing applying these standards develops a habit of choosing character. When pressure arises to do something contrary to your character grid, the pattern of good choices strengthens you to stand alone, if necessary, in making the right choice. Thinking ahead about challenging situations will help make the right choice-or even help avoid the situations altogether.

Are you a role model? Do you demonstrate consistent habits of making right choices? Do you humbly learn from others and ask for forgiveness when you fail? Do you respect others? Do you surround yourself with wise people, inspiring books, and wholesome entertainment?

Will you be remembered for what you did? Or for the excellence of your character?

*"A quiet life of consistent virtue will often have far greater impact on the world than any one-time act of "greatness."  
--Character First Education*

*"Just as swinging again and again develops a powerful, consistent drive, making many daily decisions to do right develops virtue."*



*"Right makes might."  
--Abraham Lincoln*

*"A river without strong banks will meander and flood. A life without strong boundaries will dangerously "go with the flow," harming many and accomplishing little."*



### Talk about Virtue

1. What are some ways you can build virtue in your own life?
2. Can you cite some examples of people you have known with virtue?
3. Have you known people who talk about character but whose actions say otherwise? What effect does that have on others?
4. Can you recall a time that you did not choose virtue? What should you do to correct that choice?
5. Discuss a situation where virtue would demand an unpopular choice. What should your response be? (It is helpful to think through ahead of time the right response in possibly difficult situations.)

### William Penn

Thomas Jefferson called him "the greatest lawgiver the world has produced, the first, either in ancient or modern times, who has laid the foundation of government in the pure and unadulterated principles of peace, of reason, and right." When William founded Pennsylvania, he made sure the Indians were paid a fair price for their lands, even though he had no obligation under English law to pay them. Because of his integrity and his convictions, his colony was a unique model of civil and religious freedom for all kinds of people. Pennsylvania was the first state to outlaw slavery.

Parents - [Click here](#) for tips on encouraging your children to develop the character quality this month.

Check out the [Just for Kids](#) pages for virtue in a nature analogy and a historical lesson.