

Character Virtues and Biblical Verses Alignment

Character education is a fundamental aspect of Christian education that significantly enhances and aligns with the Christian worldview. Character development can prepare individuals professionally and to live as responsible, ethical, and compassionate members of society. Integrating character development into curriculum and the classroom can help develop learners who are not only skilled but are also morally grounded, equipped to positively contribute and leave a lasting positive influence in the world.

Below you will find an explanation of the four virtue types along with biblical verses that align with just **some** of the virtues that fall under each virtue category. The list compiled below is **not** comprehensive but is offered as a starting place to showcase examples of the interconnectivity between character and faith.

Civic Virtues

Civic virtues are character traits that are necessary for engaged responsible citizenship and contributing to the common good (The Jubilee Centre for Character & Virtues, 2022). Civic virtue describes abilities, dispositions, and deep commitment toward engaged citizenship, civility, community awareness, neighborliness, service, and volunteering, aimed at contributing to human flourishing and the common good.

Citizenship

Christians have responsibilities as citizens while on Earth, with their ultimate allegiance being to God and His kingdom. This perspective and these verses encourage us to contribute positively to society, while always prioritizing spiritual identity and mission.

- "But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ." – Philippians 3:20
- "Christians should be good citizens, live responsibly, and fulfill their obligations." – Romans 13:1–7
- "Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." – Jeremiah 29:7
- "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." – Galatians 6:10

Civility

These verses emphasize that civility reflects Christian values and honors God. Through kindness, patience, humility, and a commitment to peaceful and respectful interactions, individuals can model Christ-like character in their relationships.

- "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." – Ephesians 4:2–3

- "Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else." – 1 Thessalonians 5:15
- "Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called." – 1 Peter 3:8–9a
- "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." – Ephesians 4:29

Community Awareness

These verses illustrate the Bible's call for individuals to be mindful of their community, practicing kindness, justice, unity, and compassion. By being aware of each other's needs and actively contributing to the welfare of others, Christians honor God and reflect His love in their communities.

- "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." – Hebrews 10:24–25
- "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ." – Galatians 6:2
- "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" – Psalm 133:1
- "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." – James 1:27
- "Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you," – 1 Thessalonians 4:11

Neighborliness

These verses remind us that neighborliness is about showing love, compassion, and kindness to everyone, treating them with respect, and actively seeking their well-being. This not only fulfills God's law but also strengthens communities and reflects the love of Christ.

- "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself" – Luke 10:27
- "Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up." – Romans 15:2
- "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." – Philippians 2:3–4
- "For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" – Galatians 5:14

Service

These verses highlight that service reflects God's love and a practical demonstration of faith. We are called to serve others and represent Him. Whether through acts of kindness, using spiritual gifts, or serving God directly, we are called to make service a joyful and integral part of our lives.

- "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." – 1 Peter 4:10
- "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." – Matthew 20:28
- "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." – 2 Corinthians 9:7
- "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." – Hebrews 13:16

Volunteering

These verses focus on the biblical call to volunteering, encouraging others to act with love, humility, and generosity in serving God and others. Volunteering reflects a heart aligned with Christ's mission of compassion and grace.

- "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." – John 13:14–15
- "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." – 1 John 3:18
- "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." – 2 Corinthians 9:7
- "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up." – Ecclesiastes 4:9–10

Intellectual Virtues

Intellectual virtues are character traits necessary for discernment, right action and the pursuit of knowledge, truth, and understanding (The Jubilee Centre for Character & Virtues, 2022). It is expressed in virtues such as curiosity, critical thinking, judgment, discernment, reasoning, reflection, and resourcefulness.

Autonomy

Autonomy should be considered within the context of divine guidance, personal responsibility, and accountability to God. As these verses demonstrate, the Bible encourages individuals to make wise, independent choices while considering the welfare of others.

- "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps." – Proverbs 16:9
- "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." – James 1:5
- "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." – Proverbs 3:5–6
- "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." – Micah 6:8

Critical Thinking

These verses encourage individuals to think critically by seeking wisdom, testing teachings, evaluating decisions, and pursuing understanding through prayer and Scripture. Critical thinking is not just intellectual but spiritual, aligning decisions with God's truth.

- "But test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil." – 1 Thessalonians 5:21–22
- "The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding." – Proverbs 4:7
- "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." – James 1:5
- "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction." – Proverbs 1:7

Curiosity

These verses highlight the importance of curiosity when it leads to seeking truth and understanding God. Biblical curiosity is not about idle speculation but a purposeful search for wisdom, meaning, and connection with God.

- "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; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." – Matthew 7:7–8
- "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." – Jeremiah 33:3
- "Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them." – Psalm 111:2
- "In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." – Colossians 2:3

Judgment

As these verses exhibit, judgment is ultimately God's prerogative, but humans are called to exercise discernment with humility, fairness, and mercy while avoiding hypocrisy.

- "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ." – Philippians 1:9–10
- "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way, you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." – Matthew 7:1–2
- "For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; it is he who will save us." – Isaiah 33:22
- "Judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment." – James 2:13

Reflection

These verses highlight the importance of pausing to reflect on God's Word and our lives. Reflection brings clarity, wisdom, and alignment with God's purposes.

- "Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?" – 2 Corinthians 13:5
- "Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways." – Proverbs 4:26
- "I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds." – Psalm 77:11–12
- "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." – Psalm 90:12

Resourcefulness

These verses emphasize the biblical call to use resources wisely, work diligently, and creatively solve challenges, all while trusting in God's guidance.

- "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might." – Ecclesiastes 9:10
- "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." – James 1:5
- "Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun." – Psalm 37:5–6
- "Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds; for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations." – Proverbs 27:23–24

Moral Virtues

A person with strong moral virtue will have a well-formed character that enables them to act ethically in all situations. Examples of moral virtues include compassion, courage, gratitude, honesty, humility, integrity, justice, and respect, among others (The Jubilee Centre for Character & Virtues, 2022).

Compassion

These verses highlight the significance of compassion in our relationship with God, others, and ourselves. We demonstrate compassion when we strive to recognize the suffering of others, deeply care, and then take action to help.

- "The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love." – Psalm 103:8
- "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." – Ephesians 4:32
- "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." – Colossians 3:12
"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn." – Romans 12:15

Courage

These verses remind us that courage is not about the absence of fear but about trusting in God's strength, presence, and promises even in the face of challenges.

- "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." – Galatians 6:9
- "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea." – Psalm 46:1–3
- "Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord." – Psalm 31:24
- "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." – Isaiah 41:10

Gratitude

These verses encourage believers to cultivate gratitude in every aspect of life. Gratitude shifts our focus to God's blessings and faithfulness, promoting joy and trust.

- "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." – 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." – Psalm 118:24
- "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful." – Colossians 3:15
- "You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God." – 2 Corinthians 9:11
- "I can do all this through him who gives me strength." – Philippians 4:13

Honesty

These verses affirm the value of living honestly in all aspects of life, aligning ourselves with God's truth and His call to integrity.

- "To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice." – Proverbs 21:3
- "If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth." – 1 John 1:6
- "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." – Matthew 5:8
- "Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices." – Colossians 3:9
- "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act." – Proverbs 3:27
- "The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy." – Proverbs 12:22

Humility

These verses stress that humility is not only a way to align with God's will but also a means to advance love, wisdom, and unity in relationships with others.

- "For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory." – Psalm 149:4
- "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." – Philippians 2:3–4

- "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up." – James 4:10
- "For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you." – Romans 12:3

Integrity

These verses provide a foundation for developing a life of integrity, honesty, consistency, and a commitment to virtue in every aspect of life.

- "For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man." – 2 Corinthians 8:21
- "Do to others as you would have them do to you." – Luke 6:31
- "I know that you are pleased with me, for my enemy does not triumph over me. Because of my integrity you uphold me and set me in your presence forever." – Psalms 41:11–12
- "Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out." – Proverbs 10:9

Justice

These verses highlight the importance of justice, reflecting God's character and His desire for fairness, equity, and morality in society.

- "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." – Micah 6:8
- "This is what the Lord Almighty said: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.'" – Zechariah 7:9–10
- "This is what the Lord says: 'Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed.'" – Isaiah 56:1
- "Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore, he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!" – Isaiah 30:18

Respect

These verses emphasize that respect, grounded in love and humility, is imperative to living in harmony with God and others.

- "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." – Proverbs 15:1
- "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." – Proverbs 31:8–9
- "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." – Romans 12:10
- "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." – Colossians 4:6

Performance Virtues

Performance virtues are character traits that effectively equip and enable people to manage their lives, focusing on the instrumental value of enabling the intellectual, moral, and civic virtues.

Examples include confidence, determination, motivation, perseverance, resilience, teamwork and more (The Jubilee Centre for Character & Virtues, 2022).

Confidence

These verses encourage individuals to place their confidence in God's presence, promises, and power, promoting faith, courage, and hope in all circumstances.

- "But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him." – Jeremiah 17:7
- "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." – Romans 8:28
- "So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised." – Hebrews 10:35–36
- "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" – Romans 8:31

Determination

These verses focus on the importance of courage and reliance on God as we strive to remain determined in faith and purpose.

- "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him." – James 1:12
- "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint." – Isaiah 40:31
- "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." – 1 Corinthians 15:58
- "But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded." – 2 Chronicles 15:7

Motivation

These verses inspire us to stay motivated by grounding our efforts, hope, and perseverance in God's promises and purpose.

- "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." – Jeremiah 29:13
- "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord." – Romans 12:11
- "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." – Galatians 6:9
- "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." – Philippians 3:13–14

Perseverance

These verses encourage reliance on God's strength and the hope, reminding us to persevere in faith no matter the challenges.

- "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him." – James 1:12
- "Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." – Romans 5:3–5
- "You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised." – Hebrews 10:36
- "But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded." – 2 Chronicles 15:7

Resilience

These verses inspire us to remain resilient, drawing strength from God and looking forward to the hope and glory promised in Him.

- "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." – James 1:2–4
- "And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast." – 1 Peter 5:10
- "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." – Jeremiah 29:11
- "Being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience." – Colossians 1:11
- "For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." – 2 Peter 1:5–8

Teamwork

These verses below highlight the significance of perseverance in teamwork, stressing mutual encouragement, shared purpose, and enduring unity to achieve God's will together.

- "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up." – Ecclesiastes 4:9–10
- "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." – Hebrews 10:24–25

- "The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building." – 1 Corinthians 3:8–9
- "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." – 1 Peter 4:10
- "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." – Proverbs 27:17

References

The Jubilee Centre for Character & Virtues. (2022). *The Jubilee Centre framework for character education in schools* (3rd ed.). University of Birmingham.
<https://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/the-jubilee-centre-framework-for-character-education-in-schools-pdf/>