

## VIRTUE

What is virtue...if you don't know?

**Virtue:** conformity to a standard of right; moral excellence; strength and courage; a commendable quality or valor; active power to accomplish a given effort. Well, this should give some idea of virtue; in short, it is doing the right, moral thing regardless of the circumstances.

Voltaire describes virtue as the difference in human character. Cicero described natural ability as a more likely prerequisite for glory and virtue than education alone – although the pursuit or desire for learning often coincides with the natural ability that he describes.

Men are equal; it is not birth but virtue that makes the difference.

**Voltaire**, French author, humanist, rationalist, & satirist (1694 - 1778)

Natural ability without education has more often attained to glory and virtue than education without natural ability.

**Cicero**

Roman author, orator, & politician (106 BC - 43 BC)

George Washington described virtue as a key quality or ingredient for his highest ambition or title to be an honest man.

I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man.

**George Washington**, First president of US (1732 - 1799)

Virtue comes in so many aspects of human character – it is a common if not a necessary component of honesty and integrity. I believe that virtue is the basis for a host of qualities; the book of Colossians describes some qualities as compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. The scripture continues by encouraging the believers to *bear with each other, and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another...forgive as the Lord has forgiven you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all in perfect unity.*

In a

WORD