

PRUDENCE

<p>1</p> <p>No dictum in traditional Christian doctrine strikes such a note of strangeness to the ears of contemporaries, even contemporary Christians, as this one: that the virtue of prudence is the mold and "mother" of all the other cardinal virtues, of justice, fortitude, and temperance. In other words, none but the prudent man can be just, brave and temperate, and the good man is good in so far as he is prudent. . . Omnis virtus moralis debet esse prudens. (All virtue is necessarily prudent.)</p> <p><i>Josef Pieper</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p>Prudence disposes the practical reason to discern, in every circumstance, our true good and to choose the right means for achieving it.</p> <p><i>CCC 1835</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p>Prudence is "right reason in action," writes St. Thomas Aquinas, following Aristotle.</p> <p><i>CCC 1806</i></p>	<p>4</p> <p>Prudence is called <i>auriga virtutum</i> (the charioteer of the virtues); it guides the other virtues by setting rule and measure.</p> <p><i>CCC 1806</i></p>	<p>5</p> <p>Prudence takes counsel on, and deliberates about, the ways and means; after ways and means have been discovered, it passes judgment on their suitability (that moderation in eating and drinking requires that this or that amount be taken, that this or that kind of food be avoided, etc.); finally, but chiefly, prudence gives the command that what has been decided on is carried out.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Never make a decision without stopping to consider the matter in the presence of God.</p> <p><i>St. Josemaria</i></p>	<p>7</p> <p>It is great wisdom not to be too rash in our doings; nor to maintain too obstinately our own opinion.</p> <p><i>Thomas a Kempis</i></p>	<p>8</p> <p>PRUDENCE IS THE KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT IS TO BE SOUGHT AND AVOIDED ... PRUDENCE IS THE LOVE THAT DISTINGUISHES WHAT HELPS US GO TOWARDS GOD FROM WHAT HINDERS US.</p> <p><i>St. Augustine</i></p>
<p>9</p> <p>Don't judge without having heard both sides. Even persons who think themselves virtuous very easily forget this elementary rule of prudence.</p> <p><i>St. Josemaria</i></p>	<p>10</p> <p>YOU MUST ALWAYS HAVE PRUDENCE AND LOVE. PRUDENCE HAS THE EYES; LOVE HAS THE LEGS. LOVE WHICH HAS THE LEGS WOULD LIKE TO RUN TO GOD, BUT ITS IMPULSE TO RUSH TOWARD HIM IS BLIND AND AT TIMES MIGHT STUMBLE, IF IT WERE NOT GUIDED BY PRUDENCE WHICH HAS THE EYES. WHEN PRUDENCE SEES THAT LOVE COULD BECOME UNBRIDLED, IT LOANS ITS EYES TO LOVE. IN THIS WAY LOVE RESTRAINS ITSELF AND GUIDED BY PRUDENCE, ACTS AS IT SHOULD AND NOT AS IT WOULD LIKE.</p> <p><i>Padre Pio</i></p>	<p>11</p> <p>Read unwearingly the precepts of the Lord and you will know what to avoid and what to pursue. Without discretion virtue becomes vice and the natural impulses serve only to upset and wreck the personality. Few pay attention to prudence because few possess it.</p> <p><i>St. Bernard</i></p>	<p>12</p> <p>Take care, then, not consciously to do or say anything which, if all the world were to know it, you could not acknowledge and say, "Yes, that was what I did or that was what I said."</p> <p><i>St. Louis</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p><i>many have gone through great feats of self mortification and endured much labor and sweat for the sake of God; but their self will, lack of good judgment and the fact that they do not deem it necessary to seek salutary advice from their brethren, make these labors useless and vain.</i></p> <p><i>St. Mark the Ascetic</i></p>	<p>14</p> <p><i>Be ye prudent as the serpent who, in danger, exposes his whole body to preserve his head. In the same way, we must risk everything, if necessary, to preserve the love and presence of our Lord whole and entire within ourselves, for he is our Head and we are His members.</i></p> <p><i>St. Francis de Sales</i></p>	<p>15</p> <p>To be prudent the first step is to acknowledge our own limitations.</p> <p><i>St. Josemaria</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p>St. Basil says that a man truly devoid of prudence is like a ship without a pilot; because as a ship with out a pilot cannot sail direct for the wished-for port, but is driven hither and thither by the fury of the winds, and is borne helplessly along to be at length dashed against the rocks, so too a soul devoid of prudence knows not how to keep to the middle courses, but is carried by indiscretion now to one extreme, now to another, and is at length dashed against the rock of some vice.</p>

<p>17</p> <p><i>If I am in special need of light and prudence in order to discharge my burdensome duties, I draw nigh to my Savior and seek counsel and light from Him.</i></p> <p><i>St. Thomas More</i></p>	<p>18</p> <p>The prudent person is not, as is so often believed, the man who shrewdly knows how to make his way in the world and make the most of it for himself. He is, rather, the one who manages to construct the whole of his life in accordance with the voice of a right conscience and the demands of sound morals.</p> <p><i>Pope John Paul II</i></p>	<p>19</p> <p>Sometimes a man desires to do something good, but God does not help him. This happens because at times a similar desire comes from the devil and is harmful instead of useful; or because what we wish is beyond our powers . . . or because the time has not yet come, when it can be fulfilled; or because we have neither knowledge nor physical strength sufficient for it . . . Yet the devil uses all his wiles to offer this activity in a favorable light . . . So we must carefully examine even our good desires. It is best to act in all things with advice.</p> <p><i>St. Isaak of Syria</i></p>	<p>20</p> <p>PRUDENCE MUST PRECEDE EVERY ACTION THAT WE UNDERTAKE; FOR, IF PRUDENCE BE WANTING, THERE IS NOTHING, HOWEVER GOOD IT MAY SEEM, WHICH IS NOT TURNED INTO EVIL.</p> <p><i>St. Basil</i></p>	<p>21</p> <p>Human, carnal, or worldly prudence is that which has only worldly prosperity in view and is indifferent about the means, provided it attains its object. Christian prudence takes Eternal Incarnate Wisdom for its guide in every thought, word, and work. It is regulated in every emergency not by fatuous, glimmering light of its own, or by worldly judgment, but by the maxims of faith.</p> <p><i>St. Vincent de Paul</i></p>	<p>22</p> <p><i>Prudence regulates all the virtues; it imparts to them moderation, brightness and stability. . . Deprive a man of prudence and all his virtues will forthwith become so many vices.</i></p> <p><i>St. Bernard</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p><i>Am I prudent? Do I live consistently and responsibly? Does the program I am realizing serve the real good? Does it serve the salvation that Christ and the Church want for us?</i></p> <p><i>If a boy or girl student, a son or a daughter, is listening to me today, let each a person look in this light at his homework, reading, interests, partimes, his circle of friends, boys and girls.</i></p> <p><i>Pope John Paul II</i></p>	<p>24</p> <p><i>God guides all by the action of His grace. Therefore do not be lazy or lose heart, but call to God day and night to entreat [Him] to send you help from above to teach you what to do.</i></p> <p><i>St. Anthony the Great</i></p>
<p>25</p> <p>THE GOOD PRESUPPOSES THE TRUE.</p> <p><i>St. Thomas Aquinas, quoted by Josef Pieper</i></p>	<p>26</p> <p>Know how to converse – to interrogate without over-earnestness; to answer without desire of display; not to interrupt a profitable speaker, nor to desire ambitiously to put in a word of one’s own; to be measured in speaking and hearing; not to be ashamed in receiving information or to be grudging in giving it; nor to disown what one has learned from others . . . One should reflect first what one is going to say and then say it.</p> <p><i>St. Basil</i></p>	<p>27</p> <p><i>The prudent man looks where he is going.</i></p> <p><i>Proverbs 14:15</i></p>	<p>28</p> <p>Modern man . . . will often call lies and cowardice prudent, truthfulness and courageous sacrifice imprudent.</p> <p>Classical Christian ethics, on the contrary, maintains that man can be prudent and good only simultaneously.</p> <p><i>Joseph Pieper</i></p>	<p>29</p> <p>No man is prudent who is ignorant of God.</p> <p><i>St. Ambrose</i></p>	<p>30</p> <p><i>Study as if you were to live forever. Live as if you were to die tomorrow.</i></p> <p><i>St. Isidore of Seville</i></p>	<p>31</p> <p>We can . . . see that prudence is the keystone by which we each accomplish the fundamental task we have been given by God. This task is the perfection of man himself, -holiness.</p> <p><i>Pope John Paul II</i></p>	<p>Holy Mary, Virgin Most Prudent, Pray For Us</p>