

The cardinal virtue of PRUDENCE (*Introduced in October for a lifetime of joy.*)

Definition The cardinal virtue of prudence enables one to reason and to act rightly in any given situation – “right reason in action.”

Key Points

- Aims to perfect one’s natural ability to judge, one’s common sense
- Guides one in making good moral choices

Parts of a Prudent Act

1. **Good Counsel** (Act and Listen) – Seeking advice from reasonable and trustworthy persons.
 - a. Good Counsel **looks** like: Asking someone for advice
 - b. Good Counsel **sounds** like: May I ask you to help me?
2. **Good Judgement** (Think) – Thinking rightly about a decision, carefully considering all the circumstances, and praying about what the Lord would have you do.
 - a. Good Judgement **looks** like: Thinking through the advice given
 - b. Good Judgement **sounds** like: I will pray about these choices and think about what to do.
3. **Command** (Act) – Acting upon a sound decision made after thoughtful deliberation.
 - a. Command **looks** like: Making a wise decision and acting upon it
 - b. Command **sounds** like: I will do my homework first.

Prudence **looks** like: → → → → → →

- Thinking before acting
- Reflecting on circumstances and consequences
- Praying before acting
- Asking for advice from an older, trusted person
- Thinking before acting

- Thinking before using the computer
- Pausing to think
- Thinking before sending a text message
- Being taught by someone else
- Listening to another person
- Listening to and thinking about another person’s ideas
- Taking correction peacefully
- Being willing to learn a new game
- Willing to listen to directions
- Looking outside at the weather and dressing appropriately

- Writing out a plan
- Thinking ahead (quietly to oneself)

- Taking time to pray about a decision
- Writing yourself a reminder so that you are prepared
- Thinking before you text someone
- Avoiding danger to obtain a good result

Prudence **sounds** like:

- Let me think about what I should do.
- What is the right decision?
- Jesus, help me to do what you would do.
- May I ask you for advice about something?
- I should not go because I cannot reach my parents for permission. *or* Let me think about that before saying, yes.
- I should ask my parents.
- I should wait before I respond.
- I will read my message again.
- Thank you for teaching me.
- I will listen to you.
- What do you think about this?
- I am sorry. I will try not to do that again.
- You will need to teach me how to play.
- Yes, I am listening.
- I will bring my coat, gloves, hat, and scarf because it is snowing. *or* I will bring some water, a hat, sunblock and my sunglasses with me to the beach.
- Let me think about this. I need to be prepared.
- If I do that, then this will happen... *or* I can’t do that because...
- Dear Jesus, enlighten my mind to know and what is right.
- I will get things ready for tomorrow.
- Let me think about this first.
- There is no sidewalk but I won’t walk on this busy road because I don’t want to get hit by a car.