

The Four Cardinal Virtues

Gentlemen, today we will be discussing the four cardinal virtues of Freemasonry. These virtues are the cornerstone of the Masonic fraternity, and they are designed to make its members better men. These virtues are deeply rooted in Western philosophy, and they were derived initially from Plato's philosophy. In Plato's Republic, the four cardinal virtues are wisdom, temperance, courage, and justice. According to Plato, these virtues reflect the nature of the soul, which has three parts: reason, appetite, and spirit.

The four cardinal virtues of Freemasonry are prudence, fortitude, temperance, and justice. Each of these virtues is essential to the Masonic fraternity, and they are designed to make its members better men. By practicing these virtues, Masons can regulate their lives and actions according to the dictates of reason, resist the unrestrained call of appetite, and treat others with fairness and respect.

Prudence is the first of the four cardinal virtues. This virtue enables Masons to regulate their lives and actions according to the dictates of reason. It is a practice of good judgment, common sense, and the wisdom acquired in one's journey through life. Prudence is considered the most exalted object that demands every Mason's special attention, for it is the rule that governs all virtues.

Fortitude is the second of the four cardinal virtues. This virtue is defined as that noble and steady purpose of the mind whereby one can undergo any pain, peril, or danger when prudentially deemed expedient. It is related to the word "fort," which originally denoted a structure built around something for protection. Fortitude is considered a true quality of manhood, implying strength and courage.

Temperance is the third of the four cardinal virtues. This virtue is the practice of self-control, moderation, and restraint. It enables Masons to resist the unrestrained call of appetite and to prevent reason and judgment from losing their seats. By practicing temperance, Masons can avoid indulging in habits of excess that could lead to revealing secrets that should be concealed.

Justice is the fourth and final of the four cardinal virtues. This virtue deals with our rights and obligations. It is the practice of fairness, impartiality, and equity. Justice requires that Masons treat others as they would like to be treated and respect the rights of others.

Overall, the four cardinal virtues of Freemasonry are considered essential to the Masonic fraternity, and they are designed to make its members better men. By

practicing these virtues, Masons can regulate their lives and actions according to the dictates of reason, resist the unrestrained call of appetite, and treat others with fairness and respect. So, let us all strive to embody these virtues in our daily lives and become better versions of ourselves.