

Virtue

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Ask the average man on the street what virtues are and he'd probably look at you funny. It's not that people can't define the word, they simply have no need of the word.

Our society dictates that you do what you must to get ahead, you enjoy all the "freedoms" set before you, regardless if many of them are just sin cleverly masked. Don't worry about your neighbor, don't put up with anything, it doesn't matter who you are on the inside; it's what you accomplish in this life! Garbage, and yet these ideas permeate our society. The Bible talks of a different standard, one in which we use Jesus as our yardstick. Needless to say we all fall short a foot or two at times. That's why faith isn't good enough. NOT GOOD ENOUGH? How can you say that? Isn't faith "the substance of things not seen the evidence of things hoped for"? Sure it is, but faith is like gasoline, it needs an additive or too to keep your life running smoothly. Those additives are known as virtue. Peter said it this way.

"And beside this, giving all diligence, **add to your faith virtue**; and to virtue knowledge;"

2 Peter 1:5 (KJV)

We must be diligent, it's hard work to add virtue to our lives. The NAS defines virtues as "MORAL EXCELLENCE," even though morality is not an issue for our president, it still is to God. Moral excellence is a daily exercise, it is a lifestyle not a habit, but habits practiced long enough may become lifestyle. Ben Franklin once made a list of the virtues he needed work on in his life, there were 13! Every night he would grade himself on how well he had done that day. Maybe we need to make a list of our shortcomings and test ourselves daily, I'm not so sure I'd pass. Take some time this week to write down the character improvements needed in your life. IF YOU THINK there isn't a need, ask someone close to you or better yet read the list in 1st Peter. May we all one day stand before the Lord, Morally Excellent. Think about it.

In Him, Byron