

Chapter 21 Christian Life

Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. *Ephesians 5:8–9*

To the Parents:

In chapter 21, your child learned the following:

- Christian life is guided by the theological virtues of faith, hope, and love.
- Christian life is guided by the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude.

Followers of Jesus know that the darkness of death and sin is always present in the world. However, Jesus offers the light of grace and eternal life to those who believe in him. His followers have received gifts from the Holy Spirit that fill them with faith in Jesus, hope in eternal life, and constant love for God and for one another. They use their gifts to make the world a better place, praising and thanking God for calling them into the light of life.

Christians are formed in faith, hope, and love by their families and friends, who model these gifts of the Holy Spirit. Christian identity is marked with signs of these theological virtues. They hope and believe in eternal life, but offer loving service to those in need today. They thank and praise God, and they show compassion and forgiveness to their neighbors. They love God, and they try to love their enemies. Christians are identified by their faith, hope, and capacity for love.

With Your Child:

1. Read Jesus' teaching about being a true disciple (*Matthew 7:21–23*) and then discuss the passage.
2. Redefine justice not in terms of doing what is fair or equal, but in giving preference to those most in need. Make a list of ways you can demonstrate this cardinal virtue of justice.
3. How can your family practice the cardinal virtue of temperance? For example, by not overeating or wasting food.
4. Read the story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer on the Review and Explore page.