



The Eudo Podcast: Season 2
The Virtues and Vices in a Disenchanted World

Episode 1: Why Be Good?
Discussion Questions:

1. What if you had Gyges ring and could get away with anything. Why would you be moral? Why would you be good? (or would you?)
2. Of the five reasons discussed why you should care about virtue, which one do you find most compelling?
3. What do you think of the idea that we are making humanity itself in the university? What might this look like practically in your discipline or department or classroom?
4. Do you think Christian professors (or Christians in general) are known for their virtuous character? Why or why not?
5. Do you agree with the idea that virtues help us in our quest or journey through life and to God? How so?
6. Share some of your role models. How have they helped you in your own moral and spiritual growth?
7. What are some situations that you should avoid specific to the university? What are some situations that you should seek to include in your life as a Christian? As a Christian professor?
8. What are some spiritual practices that have been helpful for you in your growth as a Christian? As a Christian professor?

Episode 2: Wisdom and Folly in a Disenchanted World
Discussion Questions:

1. What are some areas specific to your role as a university professor that require wisdom?
2. In addition to prayer, what are some other spiritual disciplines that can help you develop the virtue of wisdom?
3. How can you encourage Christian wisdom in each other? How important is the community of Christian faculty for your own development of wisdom?
4. What are some practical steps you can take to perceive reality truly? How will this help you act rightly?
5. Do you agree that our beliefs influence behavior? How so? Do you agree that our behavior influences beliefs? How so?
6. What are some currently realities within the secular university that call for an application of Christian wisdom?

Episode 3: Justice in an Unjust World

Discussion Questions:

1. Share I time when you experienced an injustice. How did you feel? What happened?
2. What are some injustices that have or do take place as a university professor? As an academic within your discipline?
3. What role do you believe prayer plays in the work of justice?
4. How can you be an agent of justice as a university professor with your colleagues, students, and administrators?
5. How does our longing for justice point back to a time when Man was truly happy? How is it forward-directed to the time when Jesus will return and renew all things? Does the fact that Jesus will return and renew all things help you live with hope?
6. If ethics (i.e., being just, being virtuous) is the middle term between our calling and our mission, what difference should that make as we go about our daily lives in the world—in our choices, our actions, attitudes and relationships?

Lecture 4: Courage in Life and Death

Discussion Questions:

1. Can you think of examples of the “just follow your heart” mentality (in discussions with friends, or in movies you watch, etc.)?
2. What is right about the quest of authenticity? What is dangerous about it?
3. How does the “action/super hero” model of courage inspire you to be courageous? Does it make it seem like the virtue of courage is unattainable in any way? How so?
4. Were you surprised to learn of the connections between courage, fear, power, and love? How do these connections help you better understand the virtue of courage?
5. If the martyr is the paradigm example of the courageous life, how does that inform your understanding of courage? How does this help you see how, as a Christian, your life can be lived courageously?
6. Discuss the connection between wisdom, justice, and courage. Do these connections help you understand better what kind of person God wants you to be?
7. What are some circumstances or trials you are going through right now that require courage? What are some ways you are called to endure an evil? To attack an evil?
8. Is the challenge to pray for self-denial scary? Why?
9. What is the specific work that God has prepared in advance for you? How can you act courageously with respect to this work? How does it connect to the progress of the gospel?

Episode 5: Temperance in an Intemperate World

Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways do you struggle with excess? Do you struggle with restraint in any area too?
2. Do you agree that there is rampant consumerism in the West? How does consumerism shape and inform your own life and loves?
3. Do you agree that temperance is a virtue for our times?
4. Explain the relationship between self-control and temperance.
5. How does culture define freedom? Are there any areas where you struggle with the freedom to do what you *ought* to do?
6. How does social media work against the virtue of temperance? How does the over-sexualization of culture work against temperance?
7. What is wrong with the idea that “your desires determine your destiny”? How does this relate to temperance?
8. Discuss the story of the Prodigal Son. How does this parable help you understand the love of God?
9. What is the connection between pleasure and meaning? How does Christianity unite these?
10. What are some practical steps you can take to become temperate?

Episode 6: Faith in a Faithless World

Discussion Questions:

1. Prior to this session, how would you have defined faith? Do you think most people think faith is “blind”?
2. What is the difference between faith as defined here and saving faith? How are they similar? How are they distinct?
3. What is the relationship between faith and works? Does the analogy of the music and the dancing help?
4. Explain the connection between dependence on God and faith. How is this surprising?
5. Do you agree that there are daily a million signs of God’s existence for those who have eyes to see? Why is evidence for God not obvious for all people? How can you help point others to God through your work?
6. Do you ever worry that you’ll never grow or overcome a particular struggle with sin? How can cultivating the virtue of faith help? Is it encouraging to know that there is a power to change us and make us whole?
7. What steps of faith can you take this week in your work? Your teaching? Your relating? Your research?
8. How can you encourage the virtue of faith in those around you? Your family? Your students?

Episode 7: Hope in a World of Despair

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss a time when you've struggled with despair, or presumption, or idolatry?
2. What is an area of your life right now where it is hard to hope?
3. Discuss the four characteristics of natural hope. How does natural hope connect to the theological virtue of hope?
4. How can hope sustain you on the journey in life?
5. Discuss biblical passages about hope? What is the connection between waiting on the Lord and hope?
6. Does that surprise you to learn that hope is the one virtue you won't need in heaven?
7. How can you hope well in your job? Your life? Your relationships with others?

Episode 8: Love in a Hook-up World

Discussion Questions:

1. How do most people define love? How would you define love prior to this lecture? What was right about your definition? How has this lecture expanded your understanding of love?
2. What are some practical ways you can grow in your love of God as a professor? How can you grow in your love of others? (colleagues, students, family, friends)
3. Discuss the idea that love of another is at root the affirmation, "I'm glad you exist." How so?
4. How does the hook-up culture degrade our understanding of love today?
5. Is it ok to love our work? How so?
6. How do the four analogies discussed by Lewis help us understand God's love better?
7. Of the four ways discussed by Baxter for how we can love Jesus, which one(s) do you need to grow in?
8. How is Christianity, with its connection between love and grace, different than any other world religion?