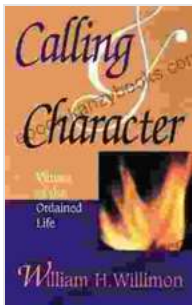


# Calling Character: Virtues of the Ordained Life

The ordained life is a calling to serve God and others in a unique and profound way. Those who are called to this life must possess a strong character, founded on the virtues that will enable them to navigate the challenges and joys of ministry.

In *Calling Character*, a team of experienced pastors and theologians present a comprehensive guide to the character virtues essential for effective ministry. Drawing from scripture, theology, and the lives of exemplary leaders, this book provides a roadmap for developing the essential qualities that define a virtuous and impactful ordained minister.



## Calling & Character: Virtues of the Ordained Life

by William H. Willimon

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 184 pages  
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## The Virtues of the Ordained Life

The virtues that are essential for the ordained life can be divided into four categories: theological virtues, cardinal virtues, ethical virtues, and pastoral

virtues.

## **Theological Virtues**

The theological virtues are faith, hope, and love. These virtues are essential for all Christians, but they are especially important for ordained ministers. Faith is the foundation of our relationship with God. Hope is the confidence that God will fulfill his promises to us. Love is the greatest commandment, and it is the motivation for all that we do in ministry.

## **Cardinal Virtues**

The cardinal virtues are prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude. These virtues are essential for living a good and balanced life. Prudence is the ability to make wise decisions. Justice is the ability to treat others fairly. Temperance is the ability to control our desires. Fortitude is the ability to persevere in the face of adversity.

## **Ethical Virtues**

The ethical virtues are a broad category of virtues that govern our conduct. These virtues include honesty, integrity, humility, and compassion. Ethical virtues are essential for building trust and relationships with others. They are also essential for living a life that is consistent with our Christian values.

## **Pastoral Virtues**

The pastoral virtues are a set of virtues that are specific to the ordained life. These virtues include hospitality, patience, and wisdom. Pastoral virtues are essential for providing effective pastoral care to others. They are also essential for building and maintaining healthy relationships within the church community.

## Developing Character Virtues

Developing character virtues is a lifelong process. It requires intentionality, discipline, and the help of the Holy Spirit. There are a number of things that we can do to cultivate the virtues that are essential for the ordained life.

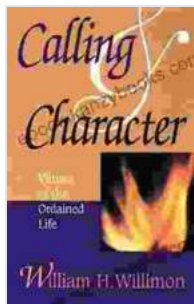
- **Study scripture.** The Bible is a rich source of wisdom and guidance on how to live a virtuous life. Studying scripture can help us to understand the nature of the virtues and how to apply them to our own lives.
- **Pray regularly.** Prayer is a powerful way to connect with God and to ask for his help in developing our character. When we pray, we can ask God to give us the strength and wisdom to live a virtuous life.
- **Seek out mentors.** Mentors can provide us with guidance, support, and accountability as we seek to develop our character. Find mentors who are themselves virtuous and who can help you to grow in your own spiritual journey.
- **Practice the virtues.** The best way to develop the virtues is to practice them. Make a conscious effort to practice the virtues in your daily life. This will help you to develop the habits that will lead to a virtuous life.

## The Impact of Virtuous Character

Developing a virtuous character is essential for effective ministry. Virtuous ministers are more likely to be effective in their preaching, teaching, and pastoral care. They are more likely to be trusted and respected by their congregations. And they are more likely to be a positive influence on the lives of others.

The impact of virtuous character extends beyond the ordained life. Virtuous ministers help to create a more virtuous society. They serve as role models for others, and they inspire others to live more virtuous lives. By developing our character virtues, we can make a positive impact on the world around us.

The ordained life is a calling to serve God and others in a unique and profound way. Those who are called to this life must possess a strong character, founded on the virtues that will enable them to navigate the challenges and joys of ministry. *Calling Character* is a comprehensive guide to the character virtues essential for effective ministry. Drawing from scripture, theology, and the lives of exemplary leaders, this book provides a roadmap for developing the essential qualities that define a virtuous and impactful ordained minister.



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