Study Four, Week Five

The Four Core Values represented by the Maltese Cross,

The Emblem of the SAR



The Second of the Four Core Values

**Temperance**

The Four Core Values inform our SAR philosophy of living, how we make decisions and how we do things. The Four Core Values also inform others about what kind of men we are.

The second Core Value is **Temperance.**

As stated in the “Overview”,*Temperance* represents more than being careful not to drink too much.This core virtue speaks to us of restraint, the practice of self-control both mental and physical; of abstention, discretion, and moderation which tempers the appetites. Plato considered translating *temperance* to mean *sound-mindedness*, the most important core value of several. St. Paul’s counsel to the brethren is to walk in the SPIRIT of God that He may carefully guide us and give us*Temperance* or *Sound-Mindedness.*

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[Deuteronomy 25:3](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Deut%2025.3) states that a criminal should not receive more than forty lashes. This was law for centuries. It was for years considered to be one lashing short of inflicting death upon the offender, especially if bits of metal and potshards were tied into each of the thongs of the whip. That same practice had been followed by many a seafaring captain as well as a commanding soldier up to the time of the American Revolution.

In 1745, a British officer's sword, a symbol of his authority, could be broken over his head before final dismissal. That procedure is called “cashiering”. Today, it would be like a dishonorable discharge, being drummed out, or summarily discharged from military service. One of the considerations, even then, was that the punishment had to fit the crime. Many men’s lives may have depended upon that soldier carrying out those orders. *Temperance* would be required for humane treatment. What follows is an example from a narrative about Anthony Wayne.

General Anthony Wayne was sent to Pittsburgh in [June 1792 to reorganize a hand-picked group Regulars to form a "Legion."](http://history.army.mil/html/reference/army_flag/iw.html) His mission was to train the men for action in the Western Ohio territory to stop Indian raids on settlers. While in Pittsburgh, Wayne encountered a problem in keeping his men from drunken carousing and cavorting with the local women. Rather than subject the men to thrashings and all sorts of punishment, the core values of *temperance* and *prudence* guided Wayne in his travels down river from Pittsburgh to Legionville, or Logs Town. It was an old well-used Indian sight along the Ohio River near Baden today.

At this new sight, Wayne surveyed and established the first US Army Training Center. The men were kept busy with building and training, ending the men’s carousing, drinking, fighting, and womanizing.

This example demonstrates how *temperance* and *prudence* working in concert rectifies potential problems.

**Temperance** in making a sound-minded decision to not punish the men almost mindlessly nor to be lured into the problem itself.

**Prudence**, or *Wisdom*, in removing the temptation (the problem) as far as possible from the men’s easy reach/temptation.

Wayne called upon his previous skills in surveying the site, planning the community, and developing a plan to build, settle, and train the men.

Questions to guide your thinking

Have you been part of developing a plan using *temperance*, or *sound -mindedness*?

Have you ever prayed for *wisdom* and *sound-mindedness* to help you make decisions?

A habit of calling on our Great and Wonderful Father-God, for His help and guidance shows *sound-mindedness*, strength, and wisdom, not weakness.

This approach to *sound-mindedness* is a mark of a leader. It grows and becomes more evident as it is used. Do you use this approach regularly?

It would be good for you to carefully consider your approach to leadership.

Look carefully to see how *temperance,* or sound-mindedness plays a penetrating role in your approach and carrying out decisions and programs.

*Temperance* or *sound-mindedness* is the second of the Four Core Virtues of

**A SAR Gentleman**.



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