Study Six, Week Seven

The Four Core Values represented by the Maltese Cross,

The Emblem of the SAR.

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The Four Core Values inform our basic 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 fourth Core Value

**Justice**

*Justice* is not just doing what is right from our own perspective. It is also considered as fairness in all things; the Greek word also having the meaning righteousness.

Some writings from those who served in the Revolutionary War have claimed that General Washington was a tyrant, yet he was fair, he was just. Washington was often referred to as always seeking justice.

The Core Value of Justice is necessary for A SAR Gentleman. *Justice* is a process through which a gentleman always seeks to act ethically and morally in any given situation. *Justice* requires the implementation of the preceding three Core Values for proper application. *Prudence*, *temperance*, and *fortitude* are necessary core values if we wish to act as men of honor and integrity who act with *Justice*.

Consider an event in the life of King Solomon from the Bible described in 1 Kings 3. Two prostitutes came to the king with a dispute. Both had a child, but one rolled onto her child, and he died during the night. The dispute was about whose child was killed. Each claimed the living child.

Using the Wisdom that God had given Solomon, he said in verse-26-27, “Bring me a sword. … Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other. Then the woman whose son was alive said to the king, because her heart yearned for her son, Oh, my lord, give her the living child, and by no means put him to death. But the other said, He shall be neither mine nor yours; divide him. **27**Then the king answered and said, Give the living child to the first woman, and by no means put him to death; she is his mother.”

This resolution required *prudence, temperance*, and *fortitude* to arrive at a “just” conclusion. Men tend to think that God somehow injects a decision into a situation without any previous work done by the person, in this case Solomon. But if you look carefully into the history, you will see that much previous preparation had taken place during King Solomon’s life so that the King could advise the noted conclusion carefully and with justice.

It is popularly reported that General Washington was is such a deep depression one Christmas Eve over the lack of material goods that his soldiers badly needed. Supposedly, he reluctantly drafted a letter of resignation that would ultimately disband the rag-tag army. He went from his tent and men called out to him several Christmas greetings, which he returned. As he turned back to his tent, Washington reportedly burned his letter of resignation. His reasoned that if the men were somehow able to follow him and were so committed to the fight, he could continue to lead. He burned the letter and turned in for the night.

Judges 6:36 begins the story of how one soldier, Gideon put out fleeces to test the Lord. In Chapter 7, Gideon gathered an army of 30,000 to do the Lord’s fighting. After several encounters with the Lord, Gideon’s army was whittled down to 300 men. Trusting God required a lifetime of love*, prudence, temperance, fortitude*, and *justice*. At that point Gideon could trust the almighty to squeeze victory from a small band of soldiers.

If you read these stories for yourself, you will see how each core value builds upon the other. The specific words are not there, but the process is spread over several chapters. You can see how each core value is dependent upon the previous one to grow and make a difference in Gideon’s life.

Something similar can be your story when you have trained yourself in trusting God first and foremost, and then reaching out to your fellows, using *prudence*, *temperance, fortitude,* and *justice* in every decision you must make.

Following these four core values is far from making a list and checking it twice or listing pros and cons to see which is most pleasing. Neither is it flipping a coin attempting to find a magical answer to a problem. Nor is this tempting fate or karma to find an answer that has been floating about the universe for you to commandeer by your attention to it.

Each of your life decisions is built upon your training in the spiritual qualities that are represented by the SAR Maltese Cross. The four core values will guide you in service to God and Country and will positively affect you, your family, your chapter, the SAR, and the world in the good that you will do. The core values will have a tremendous positive affect on your leadership ability in any office that you fill for the SAR, or business for that matter. The core values become manifest in your identity as a SAR gentleman.

In a quiet place study these values and apply them to your life. Keep some personal notes so that you may see a positive difference in your attitudes, your actions, your leadership qualities, and your character. May Our Great and Wonderful God bless you in this study.

