

## VIRTUES ARE OWNINGS OF VALUES

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Do I have a word for you, or is it only that I can't stand sending you a blank half-page? Whichever, here's the shortest Thinksheet ever.

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We are born with no virtues, no character, & most of us die without ever becoming noticeably virtuous, righteous. Further, the noticeably virtuous are seldom paragons, are usually spottily virtuous. Why, to use a Jesus metaphor, is the gate so narrow? Because the acquiring of virtues by the owning of values requires (1) virtue-models (2) who are honored in one's surround, + (3) one's willingness to accept the pains of the process & (4) persist in the practice of the particular virtue. ...Can humanity agree on values? Those of the Universal Declaraion of Human Rights are almost universally accepted.

My gerund "ownings" came from reflecting on the "disownings" which are, in the diagnostic of Gestalt existential psychotherapy, what's wrong with us: we have fragmented ourselves, the fragments appear in our dreams, & we can integrate ourselves by conversational role-playing of the fragments as ourselves.

### CALVIN AND HOBBS

By Bill Watterson

