

# Welcome Kungi!

Post by “Don” of July 25, 2022 at 7:14 AM

[Quote from Kungi](#)

[Quote from Martin](#)

For an Epicurean, virtue is one of the tools to experience pleasure.

In Epicurean philosophy, what is virtuous depends on the particular context, whereas in Stoic philosophy, they seem to be rather absolute.

The 4 Stoic virtues are:

- (practical) Wisdom
- Justice
- Temperance
- Courage

For the Stoics these are the only good things, with all others being (preferred or dispreferred) indifferents. The stoics are absolute when it comes to their cardinal (in a non christian sense) values. I think all of these virtues are important for a pleasurable life. I can't be unwise, unjust, without self discipline and a coward and have a happy life.

Are there more or different virtues in Epicureanism than these? If yes, how are they defined?

Thanks for bringing your thread back around to the Stoic/Epicurean question. My first thought when reading the list of virtues was Principal Doctrine 5:

Quote from Epicurean Principal Doctrines

5 Οὐκ ἔστιν ἡδέως ζῆν ἄνευ τοῦ φρονίμως καὶ καλῶς καὶ δικαίως <οὐδὲ φρονίμως καὶ καλῶς καὶ δικαίως> ἄνευ τοῦ ἡδέως· ὅτι δ' ἔν τούτων μὴ ὑπάρχει οἷον ζῆν φρονίμως, καὶ καλῶς καὶ δικαίως ὑπάρχει, οὐκ ἔστι τοῦτον ἡδέως ζῆν.

ἄνευ + gen = without

φρονίμως wisely, sensibly, prudently

καλῶς II. regul. adv. καλῶς, mostly in moral sense, well, rightly

δικαίως —adv. -ως, rightly, justly

ἡδέως pleasantly < ἡδονή

My translation: PD5 It is not possible to live a pleasurable life without the traits of (practical) wisdom, morality, and justice; and it is impossible to live with wisdom, morality, and justice without living pleasurably. When one of these is lacking, it is impossible to live a pleasurable life.

Consider in light of Fragment 519: The greatest fruit of justice is serenity. δικαιοσύνης καρπὸς μέγιστος ἀταραξία.

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Epicurus clearly thinks the "virtues" are important, but they are important because they are instrumental to achieving a pleasurable life and not as ends or goals for their own sake.