

# Episode 267 - Virtue Is Not Absolute Or An End In Itself - All Good And Evil Consists In Sensation.

Post by “Cassius” of February 3, 2025 at 8:54 AM

Yes - just constantly referring to lists like this one does not answer the question or tell us what we need to know.

And remember, about half of what we need to address is what Epicurus said about it, but maybe more than half of what we need to do is cut through the image of virtue that most people think of today given the Stoic/Religious perspective.

The four classic [cardinal virtues](#) are:<sup>[4]</sup>

- [Prudence](#) (φρόνησις, *phrónēsis*; [Latin](#): *prudentia*; also [Wisdom](#), [Sophia](#), *sapientia*), the ability to discern the appropriate course of action to be taken in a given situation at the appropriate time.
- [Fortitude](#) (ἀνδρεία, *andreía*; [Latin](#): *fortitudo* 😞 also termed courage, forbearance, strength, endurance, and the ability to confront fear, uncertainty, and intimidation.
- [Temperance](#) (σωφροσύνη, *sōphrosýnē*; [Latin](#): *temperantia* 😞 also known as restraint, the practice of self-control, abstinence, discretion, and moderation tempering the [appetition](#). Plato considered *sōphrosynē*, which may also be translated as sound-mindedness, to be the most important virtue.
- [Justice](#) (δικαιοσύνη, *dikaiosýnē*; [Latin](#): *iustitia* 😞 also considered as fairness;<sup>[5]</sup> the Greek word also having the meaning of righteousness.

This enumeration is traced to Greek philosophy and was listed by [Plato](#) who also added [piety](#) (ὁσιότης, *hosiotēs*) and replaced prudence with [wisdom](#).<sup>[6]</sup> Some scholars consider either of the above four virtue combinations as mutually reducible and therefore not cardinal.<sup>[7]</sup>