

Current Series - Summarizing Epicurean Answers to Academic Questions

Post by “Patrikios” of February 6, 2026 at 7:11 PM

[Quote from DaveT](#)

Wisdom (Prudence), Courage, Temperance, and Justice are ESSENTIAL root-tools for us to regulate our desires

[DaveT](#) ,

Could you provide your definitions for these terms, or is there an Epicurean text that groups these 4 virtues as essential?

For example, in PD5, as [Kalosyni](#) just cited, we find prudence and justice. But where is temperance required, if I am living prudently, and justly with my neighbors?

I agree that it is good to express and examine our current understanding of the principles. When it comes to listing any 4 virtues as essential for a life of wellbeing, I don't think that is an arbiter which all persons pursuing an Epicurean life would agree upon.

As [Godfrey](#) said

Quote

Each of these central virtues obviously means different things to different people and cultures, and they don't preclude additional virtues. The ultimate arbiter is inside each of us and not in a government, a political party, a social group or in an absolute something-or-other.