

Current Series - Summarizing Epicurean Answers to Academic Questions

Post by “DaveT” of February 7, 2026 at 1:35 PM

[Quote from Patrikios](#)

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

I googled ancient Greek Virtues and came away with those four. The search also identified Prudence as a subset of Wisdom. My personal definitions of those Greek's Virtues? I'm not sure, but I'll take a shot at it. Wisdom includes making choices based on what we've learned from experience to achieve our goals. Courage: the ability to apply what you've learned to achieve your goals even though the choice involves a hardship for yourself or those you act on behalf of. Temperance, I'm not clear how it differs from the first two. Perhaps it means the same as Prudence. And Justice, a recognition of the limits of your community's rules on public behavior and behaving with those rules in mind.

So, Virtues are tools to achieve our goals. They are subject to individual interpretation. And if the way we think and interpret what our senses inform us about the world is shaped by nature and nurture, the process is subjective yet bounded by culture and upbringing, and our biology.

I can easily agree with the statement by @Godfrey that you quoted. Each of us undoubtedly can add virtues we can aspire to. For instance, I would add Kindness, and Empathy.