

Roman Virtues

The word "virtue" from the Latin "virtus" means a quality of good character, which for the Romans applied to public or private life, depending on the virtue.

Some virtues were both public and private:

- spiritual authority – the sense of one's social standing, built up through experience, dutifulness, and Industriousness. This was considered to be essential for a magistrate's ability to enforce law and order.
- humour – ease of manner, courtesy, openness, and friendliness.
- perseverance – military stamina, as well as general mental and physical endurance in the face of hardship.
- mercy – mildness and gentleness, and the ability to set aside previous transgressions.
- dignity – a sense of self-worth, personal self-respect and self-esteem.
- discipline – considered essential to military excellence; also connotes adherence to the legal system, and upholding the duties of citizenship.
- tenacity – strength of mind, and the ability to stick to one's purpose at hand without wavering.
- frugality – economy and simplicity in lifestyle, without being miserly.
- gravity – a sense of the importance of the matter at hand; responsibility, and being earnest.
- respectability – the image that one presents as a respectable member of society.
- humanity – refinement, civilization, learning, and generally being cultured.
- industriousness – hard work.
- justice – sense of moral worth to an action.
- dutifulness – a respect for the natural order: socially, politically, and religiously.
- prudence – foresight, wisdom, and personal discretion.
- wholesomeness – general health and cleanliness.
- sternness – self-control.
- truthfulness – honesty in dealing with others.
- manliness – valor, excellence, courage, character, and worth.

