

# Perspectives On "Proving" That Pleasure is "The Good"

**Post by "Don" of December 23, 2022 at 3:44 PM**

I think I like where [Godfrey](#) is going.

I'm wondering if we're (me included) of we're getting the technical/philosophical meaning of "good" and the colloquial/everyday meaning of good conflated.

I'm starting to think that within the philosophical debates going on among Platonist, Aristotelian, Epicureans, Cynics, Stoics, et al., that there was a set of traits or phenomena that were under discussion as to which one was the one "to which all others point": Pleasure, Courage, Virtue, Practical wisdom, Contemplation, Piety, etc. The debate seems to then have been which of these were the telos/summum bonum, making the others means to that literal end. Epicurus clearly came down on the side of pleasure, making all the others subordinate. Those are the "goods" of which, according to the Epicurean school, pleasure is the telos/"highest good." I may even have to go back and research what those things were called as a group. It may not even be "goods."

The colloquial use of the adjective "good" - as in describing anything as "this is good" - is predicated on its producing pleasure: "all pleasure is 'good'" at least to the Epicureans. The other schools would not consent to that characterization I'm sure. It appears that what is good is contextual.