

# Has the meaning of friendship changed since the times of Epicurus

Post by “waterholic” of February 1, 2023 at 2:21 PM

[Cassius](#) thank you, I thought it was just my feeling.

## [Quote from Cassius](#)

So I do agree with your comment as written, but at the same time I will quickly add that I think "Living for Pleasure" is probably one of the least apologetic books on Epicurus I have read in a long time, which is why I like it so much.

To be clear, I very much enjoy the book. It's well structured and draws from the "correct" sources. Certainly better than many other recent/modern books. I guess I wish it could be more.

I haven't thought about the "apologetic" nature of the texts before, so I can't compare, but the DeWitt reference is interesting, I will revisit.

## [Quote from Cassius](#)

The points you raise point out the problem - what do we (or Epicurus) really mean by "friendship"?

I really struggle with this. Even if we find the accurate description of what social dynamic Epicurus implied in his definition of friendship to conclude that it is an essential element of a pleasant life, chances are, that social dynamic is no longer replicable in modern times. There is still academic benefit in researching the meaning of friendship in antiquity. But for us the likelihood of missing out on an essential part of the philosophy today is disheartening.