

# Pros and Cons Of Considering Epicurean Philosophy To Be A "Religion"

Post by "Peter Konstans" of February 1, 2024 at 6:31 PM

## [Quote from Pacatus](#)

So, Peter, in this "Epicurean 'church'" you seem to espouse -

Would those who disagree with any of its tenets/creeds/commandments be told to simply "get in line, or get out?" Would that be a free choice, or come with threats - à la the Catholic Inquisition?

How authoritarian (totalitarian) would the kind of leadership hierarchy you seem to propose be?

Would there be some kind of incentivized informant network to identify heretics?

My eldest son identifies as a (neo-) Stoic: Would I need to shun him? Denounce him?

I have dear friends who identify as (liberal) Christians - do I need to mock/shun/denounce them?

You seem to think that people should be willing to sacrifice their lives for the prescribed "Epicurean" principles. Is that not just another demand for absolute allegiance to an idealism?

And what price personal integrity?

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I personally doubt that what would survive under your program (as outlined here) would be "Epicurean" except in name only, since I think that this philosophy is - at core - anti-idealist. And anti-totalitarian.

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My vision is not about building a 'church'. It is about building a real flesh-and-blood community structured around a strong Epicurean Identity. This community just like any other real community would have 'leaders' i.e. persons that everybody else regards highly and which have certain responsibilities. There's nothing idealistic here.

Nobody would be prevented from joining the community as long as they swear to live and abide by our common values. And naturally this community would not include persons who insist on other creeds and views on life. We should stive to assimilate, not to be assimilated. Besides, we

need to find compatible people to live with if we want to maximize our happiness. If a certain family member doesn't want to be a part, that's ok. Adults should be free to do whatever they wish with their lives. So nothing totalitarian here.

The requirement that people should be willing to sacrifice their lives to save their friends and maintain their honor and integrity would ensure that we attract serious people. The kind of people who will not cut and run after life punches them in the face. The early Christians for example were people of similar mettle. They survived the prosecutions under the emperors because they had managed to form a network of communities whose members had forged a common strong and proud identity and who needed each other. Let's imitate success.