

# New Religious Landscape Study from Pew Research

Post by “DaveT” of April 19, 2025 at 8:31 AM

## [Quote from Pacatus](#)

Another “interesting take” on [Don](#) ‘s position above (which was a game-changer for me), that I came across in my reading. The quote is about the Aristippian Cyrenaics, but seemed to me to be relevant here: some pleasures may not be contingently choiceworthy because they would lead to greater pains - but pleasure itself, *in se*, is intrinsically choiceworthy.

“In [the example cases, a particular] pleasure is not choiceworthy given the circumstances, since its acquisition involves more than countervailing pains. **But it remains choiceworthy for itself and in itself.** In other words, its intrinsic ability to motivate choosing is *a matter of its self-evident phenomenal character*, which is not altered by prudential circumstances.”

- Kurt Lampe, *The Birth of Hedonism: the Cyrenaic Philosophers and Pleasure as a Way of Life*. [My generalizing edits in brackets.]

Pacatus, I'm not familiar with the Cyreniacs, though I have to say your post brought back a memory and concrete example of this to me. Many years ago, I attended a McKenzie clinic for certain lower back issues. Part of his treatment method involved prescribed body stretches to alleviate physical pain. I was taught to never put up with pain for one minute, but rather do the stretches that were prescribed. We were not to just suffer and wait for the pain to ease.