

Why pursue unnecessary desires?

Post by "Don" of May 6, 2025 at 7:17 AM

FWIW, For my own review and for anyone else curious, I'm going to review the words Epicurus used in his categorization of desires:

"Desire" ΕΠΙΘΥΜΙΑ epithymia : desire, yearning; craving, want, wish

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, ἐπιθυμῖα](#)

"Natural" ΦΥΣΙΚΟΣ physikos: natural, produced or caused by nature, inborn, native

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, φυσικός](#)

"Necessary" ΑΝΑΓΚΑΙΟΣ anangkaios : necessary; necessary (physically or morally); indispensable (NOTE: That last connotation puts a little different spin on "necessary")

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, ἀναγκῆς](#)

"Empty" ΚΕΝΟΣ kenos : empty, fruitless, void; vain, pretentious (NOTE: this is the same word Epicurus uses in "atoms and *void*" Think of empty space, no ground. Beliefs or desires that are kenos have nothing valid underpinning them or supporting them. They're a house built on sand to bring in a biblical metaphor.)

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, κενός](#)

So, it seems like there are:

- Natural desires
- Natural and necessary desires
- Natural and not necessary desires
- Empty desires (neither natural nor necessary?)