

# **Marriage & children seem less pleasurable today: financial worry, relational problems, high rates of divorce. Are they worth the pain ( tarakhē τάραχή) they entail?**

**Post by “Elli” of July 3, 2026 at 11:10 AM**

[DaveT](#) Thank you for your kind words and your thoughtful reflection. 😊

Epicurus would agree with you that intimacy and friendship are deeply intertwined. In fact, in Diogenes Laertius "on the wise man" we read that friendship begins from practical need, but becomes a “community of life” sustained by mutual pleasure. That shared life -that *philia* -is exactly what makes intimacy possible.

So when I wrote that modern people cannot find partners because they cannot find friendship, I meant it in this Epicurean sense: intimacy is not something separate from friendship, nor something that appears magically. It grows out of the daily practice of mutual care, openness, and trust. To have a friend, you must be a friend -and to have intimacy, you must cultivate friendship.

Epicurus sees love as the deepening of *philia*. Without friendship, intimacy cannot arise; without intimacy, love cannot survive. What we call a “crisis of relationships” is, at its root, a crisis of friendship, a crisis of human warmth.