

# **What is the difference between friendship and a friendly relationship between you and strangers?**

**Post by "Cassius" of July 4, 2026 at 1:17 PM**

Also, I don't see any issues with the fact that "friendship" should not be given an absolute definition. This is just the same as "justice," which Epicurus holds to be contextual and ultimately rooted in the pleasures and pains of the people involved.

In the Epicurean universe all these things are relative to circumstance - to time, place, people, things ... and it makes no more sense to try to state an absolute definition of "friend" than of "justice" or "courage" or any other virtue. Given that there are no ideal forms, supernatural gods, or forces of fate, it couldn't be any other way. Like everything else in ethics our evaluations of it are going to derive from the specific pleasures and pains of the people involved.