

Epicurean Similarities With Early Christianity

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- Personalized letters (Epistles) were the primary form of literary dissemination.
- "FAITH" (as ΠΙΣΤΙΣ or *pístis*) served a key role (*also "confidence", "conviction", "guarantee", "pledge", "assurance"*)
- The founder was called "SAVIOR" (as ΣΩΤΗΡ or *sōtēr*) and honored as a universal "Savior of Humanity".
- Followers venerated the founder as a deity.
- A core set of beliefs was prescribed by the founder as dogma (ΔΟΓΜΑ).
- Uniquely included women as equals and leaders of the early community.
- General cautioning against participating in State politics
- Suspicion of wealth and fame as reliable sources of happiness.
- Recognition that a simple life is all that is required to enjoy the fullness of a good life.
- Acknowledgement that a beloved friend is worth sacrificing oneself for.
- Prayer was employed as an effective practice
- Jesus is called "*kathegetes*" in Matthew 23:10, the same noun used to describe Epicurus' brothers' roles
- *Epicurus*, *St. Paul*, and *Noah* are described as ΚΗΡΥΞ, a “herald” (or “preacher” in the King James Version)
- Incorrectly represented as “atheists” by philosophical and political opponents