

# Episode One Hundred Thirty-Four - The Letter to Menoecus 01- Context and Opening of the Letter

Post by “Don” of August 8, 2022 at 12:21 AM

The word used in the first section is φιλοσοφείν , the infinitive of the verb φιλοσοφῶ 'philosopheō'

The word literally is composed of:

φίλος philos φιλία philia "love/friendship" (deeper than this but we'll let it stand for now)

+

σοφία sophia "wisdom"

Philos/philia is the same component in Philadelphia "love + brotherly"

As well as things like anglophile "England-love"

& philanthropy "love (of) human beings ('anthropoi')"

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, φι^λί-α](#)

The word philia has more of a connotation of friendly love, affection, friendship, distinct from ἔρως erōs "erotic, romantic love"

So, to be philosopheō had the sense to me of having an affection for wisdom, being close friends with wisdom.

And here are the definitions of sophia:

σοφία

1. skill in handicraft and art, Il., Xen., etc.:— ζ. τινός or περί τινος knowledge of, acquaintance with a thing, Plat.

2. sound judgment, intelligence, practical wisdom, such as was attributed to the Seven Wise men, Theogn., Hdt.; in not so good a sense, cunning, shrewdness, craft, like δεινότης, Hdt.