

Catherine Wilson's List of Wrongs (From How To Be An Epicurean)

Post by “Don” of September 9, 2024 at 10:58 PM

What are your thoughts on this revision?

Quote

The Epicurean will be moral as well as prudent. Morality *and prudence* directs us to try to minimise harm to others. It is *imprudent* to engineer sex by force, or by offering a quid pro quo to someone who finds you unattractive, as the subsequent experience is bound to be exceedingly unpleasant for them *and detrimental to the perpetrator in the long run*. It is *imprudent* to raise false expectations of permanence in another to obtain sex for a short run. It is *imprudent* to try to control another person's behaviour while enjoying a secret freedom oneself. It is *imprudent* to turn a spouse into a wage slave or a domestic servant.

From my perspective, substituting "wrong" with "imprudent" puts a different spin on each of those behaviors. Those things are imprudent in that there may very well be negative consequences for the perpetrator. The perpetrator's reputation will most likely be negative, so social consequences. The wife (and let's be honest, the majority of perpetrators in these scenarios is male!) will likely become angry (and, imho, rightfully so) and lash out in unexpected and harmful ways. It is simply prudent to treat people honestly, justly, and honorably. As the old saying goes: *What goes around, comes around*.

btw, I'm using the definition of "imprudent" as "unwise, by failing to consider the likely results of your actions."

Note that I'm not saying that I personally find any of those behaviors any less repugnant by substituting "imprudent", but calling them "wrong" doesn't seem the best way to convey, Epicureanly-speaking, why they aren't generally optimal behaviors.