

# Seneca - General Background

Post by "Bryan" of January 10, 2025 at 10:34 AM

## [Quote from Cassius](#)

with a belief in an elusive incorporeal power pervades the body in order to emphasize asceticism, honesty, and moral training

In Catholic/Christian thinking, "honesty" is something that a person should extend to *everyone* else. It seems this idea (that an "honest" person is honest to everyone), mostly survives as an expectation for the general modern individual.

Of course, other groups (with a social strategy) see honesty as something that should be extended *only within* their group -- and they see extending honesty *beyond* their group as foolish and harmful.

As Epicureans, we each organize our life to spend most of our time among our *in-group* -- and an Epicurean has very high incentives to be honest with a friend in *all* cases. Still, I cannot see why an Epicurean would be honest in all cases with someone who is not a friend (particularly if being honest may cause consequence, or if being dishonest may cause benefit).