

## VS23 - Epicurus Reader Version

Post by "wbernys" of April 5, 2026 at 6:52 PM

### [Quote from Cassius](#)

So regardless of the rest of the implications, one of the basic questions is apparently: Did Epicurus number friendship as being among the virtues? (Or considered under the category name "virtue.")

I also heavily lean towards saying yes as well. In large part because Philodemus himself seems to list Making Friends itself as a virtue.

*(... it is impossible for one to live pleasurably) without living prudently and honourably and justly,<sup>10</sup> and also without living courageously and temperately and magnanimously, **and without making friends** and without being philanthropic, and **in general without having all the other virtues.***

This is somewhat countered by Torquatus thinking they are separate but it's important to remember that despite it being a favorable view of Epicureanism, it is ultimately Cicero's presentation of Epicurean ethics and not ultimately a work by an Epicurean himself like with Philodemus.

*"For, as in the case of the virtues which I have already mentioned, so too they deny that friendship can ever be separated from pleasure."*

I myself suspect Epicurus would put making friends under the category of wisdom or honor under PD5, since Friendship is a thing a wise man would eagerly do in order to increase his own security via friends. Although i wonder if this also implies the study of natural science would also be a virtue.