

# Did Epicurus Advise Marriage or Not? Diogenes Laertius Text Difficulty

Post by “DaveT” of May 12, 2026 at 4:22 PM

I just finished reading this entire thread. Unless you all came to a final conclusion of *whether or when* Epicurus condoned marriage, which I did not pick up, I had another thought that might bear some scrutiny. And that is: What did he mean when he pointed to the "wise" man or men?

As you know, I'm no expert on Greek philosophy, though I think I've picked up a similarity among some of the pre-Socratic and later philosophers. Certainly each of them was considered a wise man in their time. But it looks to me that some of them they didn't think many men could actually become as wise as their particular teacher.

I don't have a problem with any great philosopher thinking that not many of those ordinary folks could be as wise as they were. And I'm not hitting on Epicurus, since he was a truly wise man.

Nevertheless, I'm wondering if he believed there could be very many wise men among the general population of his followers and they had a higher calling from him than all of the others. And among those who were deemed wise, was he simply advocating those few should devote themselves to teaching.

What do you know about this issue? Have you seen or read evidence of who and how many men would qualify as wise in the Garden? And secondly would they have been the ones Epicurus advised NOT to marry if it took them away from spreading the Epicurean canon?