

Enemies of Virginity

by Clement of Rome

Clement of Rome exhorts listeners to understand the true nature and glory of virginity, and to strive for it through faith and spiritual conquest.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:20, 1 Corinthians 9:25, 2 Timothy 4:7, James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:8

Topics: "Spiritual Purity", "Christian Sanctity"

Description

Clement of Rome preaches about the challenges and rewards of embracing true virginity, highlighting the constant dedication to God's service, the pursuit of pleasing the Lord with a holy body and spirit, and the noble task of holy virginity. He encourages believers to conquer worldly temptations, the fleshly desires, and spiritual adversaries through the strength of Jesus Christ, the divine Eucharist, and the promise of receiving the victor-crown of their calling. Clement emphasizes the honor and glory of sanctity, urging individuals to walk in faith, without fear, to attain the great reward of virginity.

Transcript

You desire, then, to be a virgin? Do you know what hardship and irksomeness there is in true virginity-- that which stands constantly at all seasons before God, and does not withdraw from His service, and is anxious how it may please its Lord with a holy body, and with its spirit? Do you know what great glory pertains to virginity, and is it for this that you set yourself to practise it? Do you really know and understand what it is you are eager to do? Are you acquainted with the noble task of holy virginity? Do you know how, like a man, to enter lawfully upon this contest and strive, that, in the might of the Holy Spirit, you choose this for yourself, that you may be crowned with a crown of light, and that they may lead you about in triumph through the Jerusalem above?

If so be, then, that you long for all these things, conquer the body; conquer the appetites of the flesh; conquer the world in the Spirit of God; conquer these vain things of time, which pass away and grow old, and decay, and come to an end; conquer the dragon; conquer the lion; conquer the serpent; conquer Satan--through Jesus Christ, who does strengthen you by the hearing of His words and the divine Eucharist. Take up your cross and follow Him who makes you clean, Jesus Christ your Lord. Strive to run straight forward and boldly, not with fear, but with courage, relying on the promise of your Lord, that you shall obtain the victor-crown of your calling on high through Jesus Christ.

For whosoever walks perfect in faith, and not fearing, does in very deed receive the crown of virginity, which is great in its toil and great in its reward. Do you understand and know how honourable a thing is

sanctity? Do you understand how great and exalted and excellent is the glory of virginity

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