

The Church Being Spiritual

by Clement of Rome

The church being spiritual is essential to our salvation, and we must preserve its flesh to receive the Holy Spirit.

Scripture: Matthew 7:21, Romans 8:11, 1 Corinthians 3:16, Ephesians 5:23, 1 Peter 2:5

Topics: "Church Life", "Gods Will"

Description

Clement of Rome emphasizes the importance of doing the will of God to be part of the spiritual church created before time began. He warns against not following God's will, leading to being compared to a den of robbers. Clement urges the congregation to choose to belong to the church of life, which is the body of Christ, existing since the beginning and manifested in Jesus to bring salvation.

Transcript

So, then, brethren, if we do the will of our Father God, we shall be members of the first church, the spiritual,-- that which was created before sun and moon; but if we shall not do the will of the Lord, we shall come under the Scripture which says, My house became a den of robbers. So, then, let us elect to belong to the church of life, that we may be saved. I think not that you are ignorant that the living church is the body of Christ (for the Scripture, says, God created man male and female; the male is Christ, the female the church,) and that the Books and the Apostles teach that the church is not of the present, but from the beginning.

For it was spiritual, as was also our Jesus, and was made manifest at the end of the days in order to save you.

The church being spiritual, was made manifest in the flesh of Christ, signifying to us that if any one of us shall preserve it in the flesh and corrupt it not, he shall receive it in the Holy Spirit. For this flesh is the type of the spirit; no one, therefore, having corrupted the type, will receive afterwards the antitype. Therefore is it, then, that He says, brethren, Preserve the flesh, that you may become partakers of the spirit. If we say that the flesh is the church and the spirit Christ, then it follows that he who shall offer outrage to the flesh is guilty of outrage on the church. Such an one, therefore, will not partake of the spirit, which is Christ.

Such is the life and immortality, which this flesh may afterwards receive, the Holy Spirit cleaving to it; and no one can either express or utter what things the Lord has prepared for His elect.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/clement-of-rome/the-church-being-spiritual/>

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