

Let All Keep Their Places in the Monastery

by St. Benedict of Nursia

The sermon emphasizes the importance of establishing and maintaining order in the monastery, while also emphasizing accountability and discipline.

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1, Proverbs 22:6, Daniel 1:3, Colossians 3:23, 1 Timothy 5:1

Topics: "Church Discipline", "Spiritual Leadership"

Description

St. Benedict of Nursia emphasizes the importance of order and discipline within the monastery, highlighting the Abbot's role in maintaining fairness and accountability in his decisions. The Abbot is urged to consider the consequences of his actions before God and to avoid unjust or arbitrary use of power. St. Benedict stresses that age or status should not determine one's place in the monastery, citing examples of young individuals who held positions of authority in the Bible. Discipline is to be upheld for all, including boys, to ensure harmony and respect within the community.

Transcript

Let all keep their places in the monastery
established by the time of their entrance,
the merit of their lives and the decision of the Abbot.
Yet the Abbot must not disturb the flock committed to him,
nor by an arbitrary use of his power ordain anything unjustly;
but let him always think
of the account he will have to render to God
for all his decisions and his deeds.
Therefore in that order which he has established
or which they already had,
let the brethren approach to receive the kiss of peace and Communion,

intone the Psalms and stand in choir.
And in no place whatever should age decide the order
or be prejudicial to it;
for Samuel and Daniel as mere boys judged priests.
Except for those already mentioned, therefore,
whom the Abbot has promoted by a special decision
or demoted for definite reasons,
all the rest shall take their order
according to the time of their entrance.
Thus, for example,
he who came to the monastery at the second hour of the day,
whatever be his age or his dignity,
must know that he is junior
to one who came at the first hour of the day.
Boys, however, are to be kept under discipline
in all matters and by everyone.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/st-benedict-of-nursia/let-all-keep-their-places-in-the-monastery/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net