

To Us, Therefore, It Seems Expedient

by St. Benedict of Nursia

The sermon emphasizes the importance of the Abbot's role in maintaining peace and charity in the monastery, and outlines the duties and discipline of the Prior.

Scripture: Proverbs 11:14, Proverbs 16:18, Galatians 6:3, 1 Timothy 5:19, Hebrews 13:17, James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:5

Topics: "Monastic Leadership", "Spiritual Authority"

Description

St. Benedict of Nursia emphasizes the importance of the Abbot having full administration of the monastery for the preservation of peace and charity. He suggests that the affairs of the monastery be administered by deans under the Abbot's guidance to prevent pride. If necessary, the Abbot can appoint a Prior with the counsel of God-fearing brethren, who must respectfully carry out his duties and adhere to the Rule. The Prior should be corrected and replaced if found to have serious faults, pride, or disregard for the Rule, with the Abbot being accountable to God for his judgments to avoid envy or jealousy.

Transcript

To us, therefore, it seems expedient for the preservation of peace and charity that the Abbot have in his hands the full administration of his monastery. And if possible let all the affairs of the monastery, as we have already arranged, be administered by deans according to the Abbot's directions. Thus, with the duties being shared by several, no one person will become proud. But if the circumstances of the place require it, or if the community asks for it with reason and with humility, and the Abbot judges it to be expedient, let the Abbot himself constitute as his Prior whomsoever he shall choose with the counsel of God-fearing brethren.

That Prior, however, shall perform respectfully the duties enjoined on him by his Abbot and do nothing against the Abbot's will or direction; for the more he is raised above the rest, the more carefully should he observe the precepts of the Rule. If it should be found that the Prior has serious faults, or that he is deceived by his exaltation and yields to pride, or if he should be proved to be a despiser of the Holy Rule, let him be admonished verbally up to four times. If he fails to amend, let the correction of regular discipline be applied to him.

But if even then he does not reform, let him be deposed from the office of Prior and another be appointed in his place who is worthy of it. And if afterwards he is not quiet and obedient in the community, let him even be expelled from the monastery. But the Abbot, for his part, should bear in mind that he will have to render an account to God for all his judgments, lest the flame of envy or jealousy be kindled in his soul.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/st-benedict-of-nursia/to-us-therefore-it-seems-expedient/>

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