

# Dangerous and Scandalous Association With Maidens

by Clement of Rome

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*Clement of Rome warns against the dangers of association with maidens and the unrighteous conduct of idle people who pretend to serve God.*

**Scripture:** Proverbs 20:19, 1 Corinthians 15:33, Ephesians 5:3, 2 Thessalonians 3:11

**Topics:** "Moral Conduct", "Church Discipline"

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## Description

Clement of Rome addresses the congregation, warning them about the evil rumors and reports circulating regarding shameless individuals who misuse their association with maidens under the guise of piety, engaging in dangerous and inappropriate behavior. He condemns those who partake in immoral conduct, uncleanness, and frivolity, emphasizing that such behavior is unacceptable among believers, especially those who have committed to a life of holiness. Clement also cautions against idle individuals who engage in gossip, slander, and manipulation for personal gain, urging the community to distance themselves from such deceitful practices.

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## Transcript

Now, we are persuaded of you, my brethren, that your thoughts are occupied about those things which are requisite for your salvation. But we speak thus in consequence of the evil rumours and reports concerning shameless men, who, under pretext of the fear of God, have their dwelling with maidens, and so, expose themselves to danger, and walk with them along the road and in solitary places alone-- a course which is full of dangers, and full of stumbling-blocks and snares and pitfalls; nor is it in any respect right for Christians and those who fear God so to conduct themselves.

Others, too, eat and drink with them at entertainments allowing themselves in loose behaviour and much uncleanness-- such as ought not to be among believers, and especially among those who have chosen for themselves a life of holiness.

Others, again, meet together for vain and trifling conversation and merriment, and that they may speak evil of one another; and they hunt up tales against one another, and are idle: persons with whom we do not allow you even to eat bread. Then, others wander about among the houses of virgin brethren or sisters, on pretence of visiting them, or reading the Scriptures to them, or exorcising them. Forasmuch as they are idle and do no work, they pry into those things which ought not to be inquired into, and by means of

plausible words make merchandise of the name of Christ. These are men from whom the divine apostle kept aloof, because of the multitude of their evil deeds; as it is written: Thorns sprout in the hands of the idle; and, The ways of the idle are full of thorns.

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Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/clement-of-rome/dangerous-and-scandalous-association-with-maidens/>

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