

Rules for Visits, Exorcisms

by Clement of Rome

The sermon emphasizes the importance of visiting the needy, performing exorcisms with true faith, and serving others with the gifts given by the Lord.

Scripture: Matthew 25:36, Galatians 6:2, Hebrews 13:16, James 1:27, 1 Peter 4:8, 1 John 3:17

Topics: "Social Justice", "Holy Spirit"

Description

Clement of Rome emphasizes the importance of visiting and caring for orphans, widows, the sick, and those oppressed by evil spirits, urging believers to pray with sincerity and faith rather than with eloquent words. He encourages believers to approach others with humility, meekness, and a pure heart, offering help and healing through fasting, prayer, and the power of the Holy Spirit. Clement stresses the significance of serving others selflessly, following the teachings of Jesus to love and care for one another, especially the poor and the needy.

Transcript

Moreover, also, this is comely and useful, that a man visit orphans and widows, and especially those poor persons who have many children. These things are, without controversy, required of the servants of God, and comely and suitable for them. This also, again, is suitable and right and comely for those who are brethren in Christ, that they should visit those who are harassed by evil spirits, and pray and pronounce adjurations over them, intelligently, offering such prayer as is acceptable before God; not with a multitude of fine words, well prepared and arranged, so that they may appear to men eloquent and of a good memory. Such men are like a sounding pipe, or a tinkling cymbal; and they bring no help to those over whom they make their adjurations; but they speak with terrible words, and affright people, but do not act with true faith, according to the teaching of our Lord, who has said: This kind goes not out but by fasting and prayer, offered unceasingly and with earnest mind.

And let them holily ask and beg of God, with cheerfulness and all circumspection and purity, without hatred and without malice. In this way let us approach a brother or a sister who is sick, and visit them in a way that is right, without guile, and without covetousness, and without noise, and without talkativeness, and without such behaviour as is alien from the fear of God, and without haughtiness, but with the meek and lowly spirit of Christ. Let them, therefore, with fasting and with prayer make their adjurations, and not with the elegant and well-arranged and fitly-ordered words of learning, but as men who have received the gift of healing from God, confidently, to the glory of God. By your fastings and prayers and perpetual

watching, together with your other good works, mortify the works of the flesh by the power of the Holy Spirit.

He who acts thus is a temple of the Holy Spirit of God. Let this man cast out demons, and God will help him. For it is good that a man help those that are sick. Our Lord has said: Cast out demons, at the same time commanding many other acts of healing; and, Freely you have received, freely give. For such persons as these a goodly recompense is laid up by God, because they serve their brethren with the gifts which have been given them by the Lord. This is also comely and helpful to the servants of God, because they act according to the injunctions of our Lord, who has said: I was sick, and you visited Me, and so on. And this is comely and right and just, that we visit our neighbours for the sake of God with all seemliness of manner and purity of behaviour; as the Apostle has said: Who is sick, and I am not sick? Who is offended, and I am not offended?

But all these things are spoken in reference to the love with which a man should love his neighbour. And in these things let us occupy ourselves, without giving offense, and let us not do anything with partiality or for the shaming of others, but let us love the poor as the servants of God, and especially let us visit them. For this is comely before God and before men, that we should remember the poor, and be lovers of the brethren and of strangers, for the sake of God and for the sake of those who believe in God, as we have learned from the law and from the prophets, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, concerning the love of the brotherhood and the love of strangers: for you know the words which have been spoken concerning the love of the brotherhood and the love of strangers; powerfully are the words spoken to all those who do them.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/clement-of-rome/rules-for-visits-exorcisms/>

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