If a Brother Is Found to Be Obstinate
by St. Benedict of Nursia

St. Benedict outlines the process for addressing obstinate behavior in a brother, emphasizing the importance of reform and the consequences of refusal.

Scripture: Proverbs 13:24, Matthew 18:15, 1 Corinthians 5:11, Galatians 6:1, Titus 3:10, Hebrews 12:6
Topics: "Church Discipline", "Christian Obedience"

Description

St. Benedict of Nursia emphasizes the importance of discipline and obedience within the community, outlining a process for dealing with a brother who displays obstinance, disobedience, pride, murmuring, or habitual transgression of the Holy Rule. Following the steps laid out by Our Lord in Matthew 18:15, the brother is to be privately admonished twice before facing public rebuke in front of the entire community if he does not amend his ways. If the brother remains unrepentant, he is to be excommunicated, with the option of corporal punishment for those who persist in their defiance.

Transcript

If a brother is found to be obstinate, or disobedient, or proud, or murmuring, or habitually transgressing the Holy Rule in any point and contemptuous of the orders of his seniors, the latter shall admonish him secretly a first and a second time, as Our Lord commands (Matt. 18:15). If he fails to amend, let him be given a public rebuke in front of the whole community. But if even then he does not reform, let him be placed under excommunication, provided that he understands the seriousness of that penalty; if he is perverse, however, let him undergo corporal punishment.

Source: https://sermonindex.net/speakers/st-benedict-of-nursia/if-a-brother-is-found-to-be-obstinate/

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