

Let the Brother Who Is Guilty of a Weightier Fault

by St. Benedict of Nursia

A brother who has committed a weightier fault should be excluded from the community and treated with discipline and isolation, in order to allow him to focus on his repentance and spiritual growth.

Scripture: Proverbs 27:17, Matthew 18:15, 1 Corinthians 5:5, Galatians 6:1, 2 Thessalonians 3:14

Topics: "Church Discipline", "Repentance"

Description

St. Benedict of Nursia emphasizes the importance of discipline and accountability within the community of believers, particularly when dealing with those guilty of serious offenses. He instructs that those who have committed weightier faults should be excluded from fellowship and left to reflect on their actions in solitude, following the guidance of the Abbot. This period of penitential sorrow is meant to lead to repentance and spiritual growth, as highlighted in the Apostle's warning about the consequences of such behavior.

Transcript

Let the brother who is guilty of a weightier fault be excluded both from the table and from the oratory. Let none of the brethren join him either for company or for conversation. Let him be alone at the work assigned him, abiding in penitential sorrow and pondering that terrible sentence of the Apostle where he says that a man of that kind is handed over for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord (1 Cor. 5:5). Let him take his meals alone in the measure and at the hour which the Abbot shall consider suitable for him. He shall not be blessed by those who pass by, nor shall the food that is given him be blessed.

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