



73rd Year

February 16, 2025

Pamphlet #7 (3742)

THE SUNDAY EPISTLE (1 Corinthians 6:12-20)

The holiness of the human body

Brethren, "all things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" – and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

FLEE FROM PROSTITUTION

One of the unpleasant outcomes of the economic crisis that hit our homeland is the observed increase in prostitution. In fact, the media presented the phenomenon as an emergency

solution, even describing prostitution as a profession like any other, established from the depths of the ages, simply to satisfy the need for the relief of sexual instinct. This view is primarily advocated by so-called "progressive" circles that support the liberation of everything. These circles deny the preservation of life within even basic moral boundaries, advocating for the inalienable right of individuals to determine, with complete freedom, matters concerning their bodies. These same circles proclaim today that the world has changed, so any objection on the matter is outdated and certainly falls on deaf ears.

Avoiding the darkest passions

In contrast to this trend comes the position of the Church, which is clearly and lovingly expressed regarding the human person. Our Church does not hide behind interests or momentary expediencies, nor does it accept that any modernization of society or urgent needs of the era provide an excuse to revise its positions, especially on matters concerning the human person and its relationships with God and fellow humans. For this reason, the Church reiterates its concerns and fears regarding the rise and maintenance of prostitution in our country, which constitutes a clear degradation of the human person and an indication of submission to base instincts, transforming humans from masters to slaves of their instincts.

The body as a Temple of the Holy Spirit

The Church does not deny human natural processes but rather seeks to sanctify and ennoble them in order to preserve morality and human dignity. In today's scripture reading, the Apostle Paul defines the stance of Christians towards prostitution. He connects the human body with Christ, from the moment when the Lord took it upon Himself and sanctified it through His incarnation. This fact bestows honor, holiness, and spirituality upon the body. The clear reminder that the body is a

temple of the Holy Spirit establishes the respect and honor it deserves, serving as a deterrent to any sinful deviation. Conversely, the abandonment of a person to the fallen state of prostitution constitutes, as has been said, a "rebellion against one's own nature and, therefore, a perversion of one's nature. It is the Luciferian deification of one's nature and its confinement within a desecrated nature that can no longer produce anything but passions, illnesses, and death."

Human dignity

The Church clearly advises and urges people to avoid prostitution because, unlike other sins, it leaves physical and spiritual wounds, traumas that are difficult to heal and which cause psychosomatic wrecks. It transforms the human body into a vessel of pleasure and an irrational tool for satisfying base desires and instincts. It turns a person into a consumable item, a devalued tool in the hands of unscrupulous and ruthless minds that sacrifice human dignity on the altar of profit. It insults and wounds the human body, downgrades it, and dishonors it by depriving it of the right to health, well-being, and a flourishing youth rather than a decaying one.

Our Church cannot close its eyes to the degradation of human morals and will never stop denouncing it, protecting its wayward children. At the same time, however, the Church embraces those who, for reasons only they know, have freely allowed themselves to fall, and awaits the pain from realizing their fall, and their inclination towards repentance, which often characterizes them, to become opportunities for restoring their disrupted relationship with themselves and God. May it happen!

Archimandrite E. Oik.

February 16, 2025: Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Pamphilus the Martyr (†307) and those with him.
Flavian, Patriarch of Constantinople.

1st Tone – Eothinon: 1 – Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
– Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

NEXT SUNDAY: February 23, Meatfare Sunday
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 – Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

From the publications of the Apostolic Ministry:

*Η ΙΕΡΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΗ ΔΙΑΚΟΝΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΜΑΝΔΡΙΤΟΥ
ΕΥΣΕΒΙΟΥ ΒΙΤΤΗ ΕΙΣ ΤΗΝ ΣΚΑΝΔΙΝΑΥΪΑΝ 1965-1980
(THE MISSIONARY WORK OF ARCHIMANDRITE EUSEBIUS VITTI
IN SCANDINAVIA 1965-1980)*

1st Edition, in Greek, Size 17x24 cm, 776 pages
by Metropolitan of Sweden and All Scandinavia, Cleopa Stroggylis

This commemorative volume dedicated to Elder Eusebius Vitti is a work of unique historical and pastoral value by the prolific Metropolitan since it presents the fifteen-year priestly ministry of the late hieromonk and his missionary zeal for the organization, construction of churches, and pastoral care of the Greek Orthodox Diaspora throughout Scandinavia. His holy zeal for the establishment of the Orthodox Church in the northern countries was the seed for the flourishing tree of the now thriving Greek Orthodox Diaspora. The work includes interesting biographical details of the blessed Elder, unpublished bibliography archives, divinely inspired sermons, and spiritually beneficial writings, as well as rich material about the Sacred Hermitage of St. Nicholas in Rättvik, founded by him, which serves as a pilgrimage site for the faithful.

Follow the Program of the Radio Station of the Church of Greece:

www.ecclesia.gr

VOICE OF THE LORD, a weekly pamphlet of Orthodox faith and life of the "Apostolic Ministry of the Church of Greece". Iasiou 1, 115 21 Athens. Publisher – Director: Metropolitan of Phanariou, Agathangelos. Editorial office, tel. 210.7272.331. Processing, tel. 210.7272.388. Through the holy churches, it is distributed free of charge. From the Printing Office of the Apostolic Ministry.

The *VOICE OF THE LORD* worldwide via the Internet:

www.apostoliki-diakonia.gr
