

Chapter 3

Of what qualitie they muft be, whom he ordaineth Bishops, 8. and Deacons, 14. and the caufe of his writing to be, the excellencie of the Catholike Church, and of Chrif, who is the obiect of our religion.

Tim. 1, 6.

A Faithful faying. If a man defire a Bifhops office, he defireth ¹a good worke. ² It behoueth therefore ¹a Bifhop to be irreprehenfible, the hufband ¹of one wife, sober, wife, comely, chaft, a man of hofpitalitie, a Teacher, ³ not giuen to wine, no fighter, but modeft, no quareler, not couetous, ⁴ wel ruling his owne houfe, ^ahauing his children fubieft with al chaftitie. ⁵ But if a man know not to rule his owne houfe, how fhall he haue care of the Church of God? ⁶ ¹Not ^b a neophit: left puffed into pride, he fal into the iudgement of the Diuel. ⁷ And he muft haue alfo good teftimonie of them that are without: that he fal not into reproch and the fnare of the Diuel.

νεόφυτον

σεμνούς

⁸ ¹Deacons in like manner chaft, not double-tonged, not giuen to much wine, not followers of filthie lucre: ⁹ hauing the myfterie of faith in a pure confcience. ¹⁰ And let thefe alfo be proued firft: & fo let them minifter, hauing no crime.

¹¹ The women in like manner chaft, not detracting, sober, faithful in al things. ¹² Let Deacons be the hufbands of one wife: which rule wel their children, and their houfes. ¹³ For they that haue miniftred wel, fhall purchafe to themfelues a good degree, and much confidence in the faith which is in Chrif IESVS.

¹⁴ Thefe things I write to thee, hoping that I fhall come to thee quickly. ¹⁵ But if I tary long, that thou maieft know how thou oughteft to conuerfe ¹in the houfe of God, which is the CHVRCH of the liuing God, ¹the pillar and ground of truth. ¹⁶ And manifeftly it is a

^a He faith, *hauing children*, not *getting children*. *S. Ambr. Ep. 82.*

^b *Neophytus* is he that was lately chriſtned or newly planted in the myftical body of Chrif.

great sacrament of pietie, which was manifested in flesh, was iustified in spirit, appeared to Angels, hath been preached to Gentils, is beleued in the world, is affumped in glorie.

ANNOTATIONS

1 A good worke.) *Nothing* (faith S. Auguftin) *in this life, and specially in this time, is easier, pleasanter, or more acceptable to men, then the office of a Bishop, Priest, or Deacon, if the thing be done only for fashion sake, and flatteringly: but nothing before God more miserable, more lamentable, more damnable.* Againe, *There is nothing in this life, and specially at this time, harder, more laborious, or more dangerous, then the office of a Bishop, Priest, or Deacon: but before God nothing more blessed, if they warre in such fort as our Captaine commandeth.* *Auguft. ep. 148.*

The great charge, and great merit, of Ecclesiastical functions.

2 A Bishop.) That which is here spoken of a Bishop (because the words Bishop & Priest in the new Testament be often taken indifferently for both or either of the twaine, as is noted in an other place) the same is meant of every Priest also: though the qualities here required, ought to be more singular in the Bishop then in the Priest, according to the difference of their degrees, dignities, and callings.

The Apofle vnder the name of Bishop instructeth Priests also.

2 Of one wife.) Certaine Bishops of Vigilantius Sect (whether vpon false construction of this text, or through the filthines of their fleshly luft) would take none to the Clergie, except they would be married first, *not beleeuing* (faith S. Hierom *aduert. Vigilant. c. 1.*) *that any single man liueth chafly, shewing how holily they liue themfelues, that suspect il of euery man, and wil not giue the Sacrament (of Order) to the Clergie, vnles they see their wiues haue great bellies and children wailing at their mothers breasts.* Our Protestants though they be of Vigilantius Sect, yet they are scarce come so farre, to command euery Priest to be married. Neuertheles they mislike them that wil not marrie, so much the worfe, & they suspect il of euery single person in the Church, thinking the gift of chafitie to be very rare among them; & they doe not only make the state of marriage equal to chaf single life, with the Heretike Iouinian, but they are bold to say sometimes, that the Bishop or Priest may doe his duety and charge better married, then single: expressly against S. Paul, who affirmeth that the vnmarried thinke of the things that belong to God, and that the married be diuerfely distracted and intangled with the world. The Apofle then, by this place we now treat of, neither commandeth, nor counseleth, nor wifeth, nor would haue Bishops or Priests to marrie, or such only to be receiued as haue been married: but, that such an one as hath been married (so it were but

The Heretikes opinion concerning Priests marriage.

S. Paules place, of one wife, excludeth bigamos fro holy Orders.

1. Cor. 7.

once, and that to a virgin) may be made Bifhop or Prieft. Which is no more then an inhibition that none hauing been twife married or being *bigamus*, should be admitted to that holy Order. And this expofition only is agreable to the practife of the whole Church, the definition of ancient Councils, the doctrine of al the Fathers without exception, and the Apoftles tradition. Which fenfe S. Chryfoftom wholly followeth vpon the Epiftle to Titus (though here he follow not wholly the fame fenfe) *Hom. 2. in Epift. ad Tit.* S. Ambrofe alfo *vpon this place* & moft plainly and largely in his *82. Epiftle poft med.* giuing the caufe why *bigamus* can not be made Bishop or Prieft, in fine affirmeth not only the Apoftle but the holy Council of Nice to haue takē order that none should be receiued into the Clergie, that were twife married. S. Hierom *Epift. 83. ad Oceanum c. 2. & epift. 2. c. 18. ep. 11. c. 2.* exprefly writeth that the Clergie is made of fuch as haue had but one wife, at leaft after Baptifme: for he thought that if one were often married when he was yet no Chriftian, he might notwithstanding be ordered Bishop or Prieft. But S. Ambrofe *ep. 82.* S. Auguftin *de bono Coniug. c. 18.* S. Innocentius the firft *ep. 2. c. 5, 6. to. 1.* S. Leo *ep. 87.* S. Gregorie, and after them the whole Church, exclude thofe alfo which haue been twife married when fo-euer. Whereof S. Auguftin giueth a goodly reafon and example in the place alleaged. S. Leo *ep. 87.* addeth further, and proueth that the man is counted *bigamus*, and not the hufbānd of one wife, in refpect of holy Orders, not only if he hath had two wiues, but if his one wife were not a virgin. Which being obserued in the high Priefts of the old law, muft needs be much rather now. See alfo the book *de Eccleſiaſticis dogmatibus c. 71.* in S. Auguftines workes.

li. 2. ep. 25.

Leuit. 22.

And by thefe few you may fee how shamefully the ftate of the new heretical Clergie of our time is fallen from the Apoftolike and al the Fathers practife and doctrine herein. Who doe not only take men once or twife married before, but (which was neuer heard of before in any perfon or part of the Catholike Church) they marrie after they be Bifhops or Priefts, once, twife, and as often as their lufts require. Whereas it was neuer lawful in God's Church to marrie after Holy Orders. Neither is there one authentical example therof in the world. For thefe of whom Nice Council ſpeaketh, were married before, & were but tolerated only to vſe their wiues: the Fathers in the fame Council prouiding exprefly at the fame time, that none from thence-forth should marrie after they came to holy Orders, *and that according to the ancient tradition of the Church*, as Socrates and Sozomenus declare in moft plaine words. See Suidas *in the word Paphnufius.* And in what countrie fo-euer they haue been permitted to haue carnal dealing euen with their wiues whom they had before, it was not according to the exact rule of the Apoftles and Churches tradition, by which al that be in holy Orders, should wholly abſtaine, not only from marrying,

Who are counted *bigami.*

The heretical Clergie nothing regardeth the Apoftles preſcriptiō of one wife.

None euer married after holy Orders.

They that were made Priefts of married men, abſteined from their wiues.

Socrat. li. 1. c. 8.
Sozom. li. 1. c. 22.

but euen from their wiues before married. Whereof thus writeth S. Epiphanius *haref. 59. cont. Catharos. The holy preaching of God receiueth not, after Chrif, them that marrie againe after their wiues departure, by reafon of the great dignitie and honour of Priefthood. And this the holy Church of God obserueth with al finceritie. Yea she doth not receiue the once married perfon that yet vfeth his wife and begetteth children: but only fuch an one she taketh to be Deacon, Prief, Bishop, or Subdeacon, as abftaineth from his one wife, or is a widower, fpecially where the holy canons be fincerely kept. But thou wilt fay vnto me, that in certaine places Priefs, Deacons, and Subdeacons doe yet beget children, (belike this holy Father neuer heard of any Bishop that did fo, and therefore he leaueth out that order, which he named with the other in the former part of the fentence) but that is not done according to order and rule, but according to man's mind, which by time flacketh, and for the great multitude (of Chrifian people) when there were not found fufficient for the minifterie, &c. the reft of his words be goodly for that purpofe.*

S. Epiphanius.

Marriage of Priefs is contrarie to the ancient canons.

Eufebius alfo *Euang. demonft. li. 1. c. 9.* faith, that fuch as be confecrated to the holy minifterie, fhould abftaine wholly from their wiues which they had before. S. Hierom *Apolog. ad Pammach. c. 8.* proueth, that fuch of the Apoftles as were married, did fo, and that the Clergie ought to doe the fame by their example. Yea in his time he teftifieth (*Cont. Vigil. c. 3.*) that they did liue fingle in a manner through the world euen in the Eaft Church alfo. *What, faith he, fhall the Churches of the Eaft doe, what they of Ægypt, of the See Apoftolike: which take to the Clergie, either virgins, or the continent and vnmarried, or fuch as, if they haue wiues, ceafe to be husbands?* And againe he faith in *Apol. ad Pammach c. 3.* (See alfo *c. 8.*) *If married men like not wel of this, let them not be angrie with me, but with the holy Scriptures, with al Bishops, Priefs, Deacons, & the whole companie of Priefs & Leuites, that know they can not offer Sacrifices, if they vfe the act of marriage.* S. Auguft. *de adult. Coniug. li. 2. c. 20.* maketh it fo plaine a matter that al Priefs fhould liue chaft, that he writeth, that euen fuch as were forced (as many were in the primitiue Church) to be of the Clergie, were bound to liue chaft, yea and did it with great ioy and felicitie, neuer complaining of thefe neceffities and intolerable burdens, or impoffibilities of liuing chaft, as our flefhly companie of new Minifters and Superintendents doe now, that thinke it no life without women. Much like to S. Auguftin before his conuerfion, when he was yet a Manichee, who (as himfelf reporteth *Confef. li. 6. c. 3.*) admiring in S. Ambrofe al other his incomparable excellencies, yet counted al his felicities leffe, becaufe he lacked a woman, without which he thought (in time of his infidelitie) no man could liue. But after his conuerfion thus he faid to God of S. Ambrofe: *What hope he had, and againft the tentations of his excellencie what a fight he*

Eufebius.

S. Hierom.

S. Auguftin.

See S. Leo *ep. 92. c. 3.*

S. Ambrofe.

felt, or rather what a comfort and solace in tribulation, and his secret mouth which was within his hart, what fauourie and sweet ioyes it tasted of thy bread, neither could I coniecture, neither had I tried.

See Tertullian *li. 1. ad vxorum* S. Cyprian *de fingul. Cleritor.* the *first Council of Nice can. 3. conc. Toles. 2. can. 3. conc. Aurelian. 3. of Carthage the second cap. 2. of Neocæsarea cap. 2. of Ancyra cap. 10.* and you shall find that this was generally the Churches order euen from the Apostles time, though in some places by the licentiousnes of many, it was sometime not so religiously looked vnto. Wherby you may easily refute the impudent clamours of Heretikes against Siricius, Gregorie 7, and others, whom they falsely make the Authours of the Clergies single life.

6 Not a Neophyt.) That which is spoken here properly & principally of the newly baptized (for so the word Neophyt doth signifie) the Fathers extend also to all such as be but newly retired from prophane occupations, ciuil government, warfare, or secular studies, of whom good trial must be taken before they ought to be preferred to the high dignitie of Bishop or Priest. Though for some special prerogative & excellencie, it hath in certaine persons been otherwise, as in S. Ambrose and some other notable men. Tertullian (*li. de præscript.*) noteth Heretikes for their lightnes in admitting euery one without discretion to the Clergie. *Their Orders (saith he) are rash, light, inconstant: now they place Neophytes, then secular men, then our Apostates, that they may tie them by glorie and preferments, whom with the truth they can not. Nowhere may a man sooner prosper and come forward, then in the camp of rebelles, where to be only, is to deserue much. Therefore one to day a Bishop, to morrow some-what els: to day a Deacon, to morrow Lector, that is, a Reader: to day a Priest, to morrow a lay man, for to laie men also they enioyne the functions of Priests.* And S. Hierom *ep. 8. ad Oceanum c. 4.* saith of such, *Yesterday a Cathecumen or newly conuerted, to day a bishop: yesterday in the theatre, to day in the Church: at night in the place of games and maisteries, in the morning at the altar: a while agoe a great patron of ftage-plaiers, now a consecratour of holy virgins.* And in another place, *Out of the bosome of Plato and Aristophanes they are chosen to a Bishoprike, whose care is, not how to suck out the marrow of the Scriptures, but how to sooth the peoples eares with flourishing declamations.* *Dialog. cont. Lucifer. c. 5.*

8 Deacons.) Vnder the name of Deacons are here contained Subdeacons, as before vnder the name of Bishops, Priests also were comprehended. For to these foure pertaineth the Apostles precept and order touching one wife, & touching continencie and chastitie, as by the alleaged Councils and Fathers (namely by the words of S. Epiphanius) doth appeare. For they only be in holy Orders, as seruing by their proper function about the Altar and the

Tertullian.
S. Cyprian
Councils.

None rashly to be
admitted to the
Clergie.

Heretikes admit
all forts without
exception.

The three holy Or-
ders, only bound
to chastitie.

*Leo. ep. 92.
c. 3. Greg. 6.
li. 1. ep. 42.*

B. Sacrament: in respect whereof the law of chaſtitie pertaineth to them, and not to the foure inferiour Orders of *Acolyti*, *Exorciftæ*, *Lectores* and *Oftiarij*, who neither by precept nor vow be bound to perpetual chaſtitie, as the others of the holy and high Orders be bound, both by precept and promiſe or ſolemne aſſent made when they tooke Subdeaconſhip.

The 4. inferiour orders not bound to chaſtitie.

Al theſe degrees and orders to haue been euer ſince Chriſtes time in the Church of God, it might be proued by al antiquitie. But for as much as the Apoſtles purpoſe is not here to reckon vp al the Eccleſiaſtical Hierarchie, it need not be treated of in this place. But we wiſh the learned to read the 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. chapters of the 4. *Councel of Carthage*, whereat S. Auguſtin was preſent: where they ſhal ſee the expreſſe callings, offices, and manner of ordering or creating al the ſaid forts, and ſhal wel perceiue theſe things to be moſt ancient and venerable. Let them read alſo Eufeſebius hiſtorie, the 35. *Chapter of the 6. booke*, where for al theſe orders he reciteth Cornelius epiſtle to Fabius, concerning Nouatus. Likewiſe S. Cyprian in many places, namely *ep. 55. nu. 1.* Where ſee the notes vpon the ſame. *S. Hier. ep. 2. c. 6.* Of Subdeacon there is mention in S. Auguſtin *ep. 74.* and *ep. 20. de epiſtolis 22. in edit. Pariſ. S. Epiph. hæ. 59. S. Cyprian ep. 74. S. Ignatius ep. 9. ad Antiochenos*, and in the 48. *canon of the Apoſtles. Conc. Toles. 2. can. 1. & 3. Conc. Laodicen. cap. 23. Epiſt. Epiph. apud Hiero. 60. c. 3.*

Al the ſeuē Orders ancient, euē from Chriſt and the Apoſtles time.

15 In the houſe of God.) *Al the world being Gods, yet the Church only is his houſe, the Rectour or Ruler whereof at this day, (ſaith S. Ambroſe vpon this place) is Damafus.* Where let our louing Brethren note wel, how cleare a caſe it was then, that the Pope of Rome was not the Gouvernour only of one particular See, but of Chriſtes whole houſe, which is the Vniuerſal Church, whoſe Rectour this day is Gregorie the thirteenth.

S. Ambroſe calleth the B. of Rome Rectour of the whole Church.

15 The pillar of truth.) This place pincheth al Heretikes wonderfully, and ſo it euer did, and therefore they oppoſe themſelues directly againſt the very letter and confeſſed ſenſe of the ſame, that is, cleane contrarie to the Apoſtle: Some ſaying, the Church to be loſt or hidden: ſome, to be fallen away from Chriſt theſe many Ages: ſome, to be driuen to a corner only of the world: ſome, that it is become a ſtewes and the Seat of Antichriſt: laſtly the Proteſtants moſt plainly & directly that it may and doth erre and hath ſhamefully erred for many hundred yeares together. And they ſay herein like themſelues, and for the credit of their owne doctrine which can not be true in very deed, except the Church erre, euen the Church of Chriſt, which is here called the houſe of the liuing God.

The heretikes ſay directly contrarie to the Apoſtle, that the Church is not the pillar of truth.

But the Church which is the houſe of God, whoſe Rectour (ſaith S. Ambroſe) in his time was Damafus, and now Gregorie the thirteenth, and in the Apoſtles time S. Peter, is the pillar of truth, the eſtabliſhment of al veritie: therefore it can not erre. It hath the

That the Church is the pillar of truth & can not erre, is proued by many reaſons.

Io. 14, 16.

Mat. 16. Spirit of God to lead it into al truth til the worlds end: therefore it
Mat. 28. can not erre. It is builded vpon a rocke, hel gates shal not preuaile
Eph. 4. againft it: therefore it can not erre. Chrift is in it til the end of
the world, he hath placed in it Apoftles, Doctours, Pastours, and
Rulers to the confummation & ful perfection of the whole body,
that in the meane time we be not caried about with euery blaft
Io. 17. of doctrine: therefore it can not erre. He hath praied for it, that
it be sanctified in veritie, that the faith of the cheefe Gouvernour
thereof faile not: it is his houfe, his spoufe, his body, his lot,
Luc. 22. Kingdom and inheritance giuen him in this world: he loueth it as
Pfal. 2. his owne flefh, and it can not be diuorced or separated from him:
Eph. 5. therefore it can not erre. The new Testament, Scriptures, Sacra-
ments, and Sacrifice can not be changed, being the euerlasting
dowrie of the Church, continued and neuer rightly occupied in
any other Church, but in this our Catholike Church: therefore it
can not erre. And therefore al thofe points of doctrine, faith, and
worship, which the Arians, Manichees, Proteftants, Anabaptiftes,
other old or new Heretikes, vntruelly thinke to be errours in the
Church, be no errours indeed but thēfelues moft shamefully are
deceiued, and fo shal be ftil, til they enter againe into this houfe
of God, which is the piller and ground of al truth: that is to fay,
not only it felf free from al error in faith and religion, but the
piller and ftay to leane vnto in al doubts of doctrine and to ftand
vpon againft al heresies and errours that il times yeald, without
which there can be no certaintie nor securitie. And therefore the
holy Apoftles, and Councils of Nice and Conftantinople, made it
an article of our *Creed*, to beleue the CATHOLIKE and APOSTO-
LIKE CHVRCH. Which is, not only to acknowledge that there is
fuch a Church, as heretikes falſely fay; but that that which is called
the Catholike Church, and knowen fo to be, and communicateth
with the See Apoftolike, is the Church: and that we muſt beleue,
heare, and obey the ſame, as the touch-ftone, piller, and firma-
ment of truth. For, al this is comprifed in that principle, *I beleuee*
the Catholike Church. And therefore the Council of Nice ſaid, *I*
beleuee in the Church, that is, I beleuee and truſt the ſame in al
things.

πιστεύω εἰς
τὴν ἐκκλησίαν.

Neither can the Heretikes eſcape by flying from the knowen viſible
Church, to the hid congregation or companie of the Predeſtinate.
For that is but a falſe phantaſtical apprehenſion of Wicleffe and
his followers. The companie of the Predeſtinate maketh not any
one Societie among themſelues, many of them being yet vnborne,
and many yet Infidels and heretikes, & therefore be not of the one
houſe of God which is here called, *the piller of truth.* And thofe
of the Predeſtinate that be already of the Church, make not a feueral
cōpanie from the knowen Catholike Church, but are baptiſed,
houſeled, taught, they liue and die in the common Catholike viſible
Church, or els they can neither receiue Sacrament, nor ſaluation.
S. Paul inſtructeth not Timothee how to teach, preach, correct,

The meaning
of this article, *I*
beleuee the Cath.
Church.

It is the viſible
Church that is the
piller of truth and
can not erre.

and conuerse in the inuifible focietie of the Predefinate, but in the vifible houfe of God. So that it muft needs be the vifible Church which can not erre.

If any make further queftion, how it can be that any companie or focietie of men (as the Church is) can be void of error in faith, feeing al men may erre: he muft know that it is not by nature, but by priuilege of Chriftes prefence, of the holy Ghofts affiftāce, of our Lordes promife and praier. See S. Auguftin vpon thefe words of the *118. Pfalme Conc. 13. Ne auferos de ore meo verbum veritatis vfquequaque*. Where he hath goodly fpeaches of this matter. For the fame purpofe alfo thefe words of Lactantius are very notable: *It is the Catholike Church only, that keepeth the true worfhip of God; this is the fountaine of truth, this the houfe of faith, this the Temple of God: whither if any man enter not, or frō which if any man goe out, he is an alien & ftranger from the hope of euerlafting life and faluation. No man muft by obftinate contention flater himfelf, for it ftandeth vpon life and faluation, &c.* S. Cyprian faith, *The Church neuer departeth from that which she once hath knowen. Ep. 55. ad Cornel. nu. 3.* S. Irenæus faith, *That the Apoftles haue laid vp in the Church as in a rich treafurie, al truth. And, that she keepeth with moft fincere diligence, the Apoftles faith and preaching. li. 3. c. 4. & 40. & li. 1. c. 3.* It were an infinit thing to recite al that the Fathers fay of this matter, al counting it a moft pernicious abfurditie to affirme, that the Church of Chrifft may erre in religion.

Whence the Church hath this priuilege neuer to erre.

S. Auguftin.

Lactantius.

S. Cyprian.

S. Irenæus.