

SCTR 26 • Gender in Early Christianity

Study Questions for Quiz #2

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

1. How did the gnostics understand matter and gender to be related? Provide a specific example from one of their texts.
2. How does Tertullian discipline women's appearance? Draw from Schüssler Fiorenza's four secular and four Christian "techniques."
3. How and why are Perpetua and Felicitas gendered both male and female in the account of their martyrdom? How does social class intersect with the way they are "gendered"?
4. How and why is the account of the virgin Agnes' martyrdom eroticized?
5. Discuss how Ambrose, Augustine and other western Roman Christians acknowledge that they are NOT your typical Roman man while at the same time asserting that they are MORE manly than their pagan counterparts.
6. Discuss the evolution of the belief in the perpetual virginity of Mary, and why this belief develops.
7. What is a spiritual marriage? Compare Paul's treatment of this practice in first-century Corinth to Chrysostom's treatment of it in fourth-century Antioch.
8. Explain when and why the tradition of holy harlots developed. Then pick one holy harlot and recount how her former sexual desire is redirected in the plot, and whether/how she is still the object of desire for the characters in or audience of the story.
9. Select one of the three following "types": women gnostics, female martyrs, or holy harlots. Given how women were understood in the ancient world, how are these women particularly useful models of Christian transformation?