

III Lateran Council  
1179 C.E.  
Canon 11

*Summary.* Clerics living incontinently shall be deposed from office and deprived of their ecclesiastical benefice; layity shall be excommunicated.

*Text.* Clerics in sacred order who keep in their houses any women for unchaste purposes, must either dismiss them and live continently or be deposed from office and deprived of their ecclesiastical benefice. Anyone found guilty of that incontinence, which is against nature, on account of which came the anger of God upon the children of unbelief and destroyed by fire five cities, if he be a cleric, let him be deposed from the clerical state or sentenced to a monastery to do penance; if a layman, let him be excommunicated and completely cut off from the communion of the faithful. Moreover, if any cleric shall presume to frequent the monasteries of nuns without necessity, let him be warned by the bishop, and if he does not amend, let him be removed from his ecclesiastical benefice.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Other synods dealing with the same subject as the first part of this canno: Gregory VII, Rome, 1074, canons 11-21 (Mansi, XX, 413-28); 1078, canon 11 (*id.*, XX, 510); Urban II, Melfi, 1089, canons 2, 12 (*id.*, XX, 723); Clermont, 1095, canon 1 (*id.*, XX, 906); Callistus II, Reims, 1119, canon 5 (*id.*, XXI, 236); I Lateran, canon 3; II Lateran, canons 6, 7, 8; John XX, Palencia, 1322, canon 7 (*id.*, XXV, 700).