

About the Limits of the Church, Heresy and Schism in the Theological Thinking of Saint Cyprian of Carthage

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Abstract

The ecumenical dialogue involves many ideas and attitudes. Within these theological discussions, Saint Cyprian of Carthage occupies his place. Most important, his vision about the Church has marked the entire Christianity. Because of this reason and for many others, this study attempts to explore his theological ideas regarding the limits of the Church, the validity of the Baptism outside the Church defined by her canonical limits. In order to accomplish this, we will have three important sections, as follows: 1. a short biographical life; 2. the ecclesiological ideas of St Cyprian expressed in two important disputes of his time, namely the problem of the fallen and the Baptism professed outside the Church; 3. the limits of the Church in the thought of St Cyprian and the theological critics which we can share about this subject. Of course, our study will have some important conclusions.