

Aspects of Family Life in the Roman-Byzantine World

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Abstract

Until the appearance of Christianity and especially until the emperor Constantine the Great (306-337), in the Roman legislation were encountered different types of inbreeding, of pagan nature, especially in senatorial and imperial circles. At the same time, there was a tendency for exogamy. If in the pagan Roman society there was a continuous tendency towards inbreeding, with the advent of Christianity, freedom of faith, in 313 and especially after 380, when Christianity became the state religion, an attempt was made to encourage monogamy in those communities and cities. The historical reality regarding the mixed families in which most of the times the women had a missionary role, is decisively demonstrated by the dedicatory and funerary inscriptions as well as the prosopography elements that have been published so far in the field.