

Abstract: The Authority of the Preacher in a Sermon of John Wyclif

This article concerns John Wyclif's construction of his own authority as a preacher through the correct interpretation of scripture. Taking his sermon for the Fourth Sunday after the Octave of the Epiphany as a case study, it seeks to demonstrate how Wyclif consistently contrasts two groups, the clergy and the laity, and how he sees the authority of preachers as founded in their morality and in their correct interpretation of scripture. Furthermore, it seeks to demonstrate how for Wyclif it is the failure to correctly interpret scripture that leads to failure among the clergy, who are blinded by their worldliness and greed, to properly instruct the laity concerning such things as images and the Eucharist.

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