

when he saw that we refused him from time to time, in regard to his baptism, he urged us strongly and with [225 i.e., 125] good arguments. "Since you teach," said he, "that God is merciful, and blots out the sins of those who believe in him, and who are baptized, why do you refuse me Baptism?—me, who show publicly the regret I feel for having offended him? If you hate my wicked actions, baptize me, and they will be effaced, and you will have nothing more to hate in me. I have committed several sins that I would not have committed if you had baptized me. For I have always resolved that, if ever I should be baptized, I would respect my baptism; but as I have not been, I am like a dog, and hence I give myself up to my passions,—nevertheless, with regret." Once when we publicly rebuked him for a fault that he committed in our presence, he, without any embarrassment, said to us before all his people, "I did not think that this act was wrong; but, since it is, I am sorry to have committed it, and I shall never be guilty of it again." And then he came to see us privately to find the reason why we condemned this act; having given it to him, he accused himself, wondering at his own stupidity.

[126] Seeing him one day very thoughtful and downcast, we asked him what was the matter. "My heart is sad," he replied, "for it seems to me that God does not love us, since he gives us commandments that we cannot keep; there are many sins that I do not fear, but there are some that make me afraid. I do not fear drunkenness, nor eat-all feasts, nor the consultation of Demons, nor our songs, nor pride, nor theft, nor murder; but I do fear women. God commands us to marry but one wife, and, if she leaves