

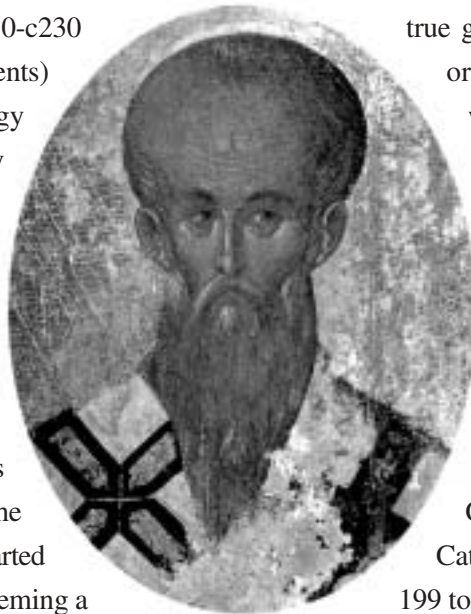


## The Perfect Person's Rule of Life

*The "Perfect Person" does not only try to avoid evil. Nor does he do good for fear of punishment, still less in order to qualify for the hope of a promised reward. The "Perfect Person" does good through love. His actions are not motivated by desire for personal benefit, so he does not have personal advantage as his aim. But as soon as he has realized the beauty of doing good, he does it with all his energies and in all that he does. He is not interested in fame, or a good reputation, or a human or divine reward. The rule of life for a "Perfect Person" is to be in the image and likeness of God.*

### St Clement of Alexandria

St Clement of Alexandria (c. 150-c. 230 CE) (born Titus Flavius Clements) united philosophy and theology by using ideas from Greek philosophy (primarily Plato) to elucidate truths within Christian doctrine. His three main works (Protrepticus, Paedagogus and the unfinished Stromateis) were directed at knowing and practicing a moral, Christian life, by which human beings prepared for their ascent to God, the Creator of all things. St Clement departed from traditional Christianity by esteeming a



true gnosis over and above the belief of ordinary Christians. True Gnostics were held in higher acclaim because they had access to a knowledge that allowed them to receive sacred truths regarding the Word of God. In so doing, St Clement united knowledge with the act of faith, maintaining that both are necessary in order to truly understand how to live according to the will of God. St Clement was the head of the Catechetical School of Alexandria from 199 to 202.