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Gender and Christianity in Medieval Europe: New Perspectives

By Lisa M. Bitel, Felice Lifshitz

University of Pennsylvania Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Gender and Christianity in Medieval Europe: New Perspectives, Lisa M. Bitel, Felice Lifshitz, Gender and Christianity in Medieval Europe New Perspectives Edited by Lisa M. Bitel and Felice Lifshitz In Gender and Christianity in Medieval Europe, six historians explore how medieval people professed Christianity, how they performed gender, and how the two coincided. Many of the daily religious decisions people made were influenced by gender roles, the authors contend. Women's pious donations, for instance, were limited by laws of inheritance and marriage customs; male clerics' behavior depended upon their understanding of masculinity as much as on the demands of liturgy. The job of religious practitioner, whether as a nun, monk, priest, bishop, or some less formal participant, involved not only professing a set of religious ideals but also professing gender in both ideal and practical terms. The authors also argue that medieval Europeans chose how to be women or men (or some complex combination of the two), just as they decided whether and how to be religious. In this sense, religious institutions freed men and women from some of the gendered limits otherwise imposed by society. Whereas previous scholarship has...



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