31 To Open (*Aperire*)

Man ought to open to God and neighbor in three ways, namely, heart, mouth, and hand.

First, man ought to open his heart to God, just as a servant opens the door to his lord, Luke 12[:36]: “When he comes and knocks, they may open to him immediately.” As the bride opens the chamber to the bridegroom, Can. 5[:2]: “Open to me, my sister.” Apo. 3[:20]: “Behold, I stand at the gate, and knock. If any man shall open to me, I will come in to him.”

Second, one ought to open his mouth to God, just like a granny opens to some kindred expecting to be refreshed, Psal. [118:131]: “I opened my mouth and panted.” As I in praying that the sickness may be healed, Eccli. 39[:7]: “He will open his mouth in prayer and will make supplication for his sins.”

Third, one ought to open his hand to God to offer gifts, Matt. 2[:11]: “Opening their treasures, they offered him gifts,” etc. A man ought to open his heart for loving and feeling pity for his neighbor, thus the iron door was opened to Peter, Act. 12[:10]. The mouth for correcting the delinquent, Eccli. [22:27]: “If thou hast opened a sad mouth, fear not.”

¶ Again for teaching the ignorant, Ps. [77:2]: “I will open my mouth in parables.”

Again, for helping the powerless, Prov. 31[:8]: “Open thy mouth for the dumb.”

Third one ought to open his hand in assisting to which they send many things.

And first, examples, Prov. 31[:20]: “She hath opened her hand to the needy.”

¶ Second, precepts, Deut. [15:7-8]: “Nor close your hand,” for helping, “but open it.”

Third, nature, Prov. 27[:25]: “The meadows,” the sins, “are open.” But, alas, because today your hearts are open to turpitude, delighting, Nahum 2[:6]: “The gates of the rivers are opened.” Mouths are open to detracting and quarreling, Eccli. 20[:15]: “The opening of his mouth is the kindling of a fire.” Open doors to introducing the fornicator, Deut. 11[:6]: “Opening her mouth.”