Worcester F 80 Distinctiones

12 To Open (*Aperire*)

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

¶ First, man ought to open his heart, just as a servant opens the house to his lord, Luke 12[:36]: “When he comes and knocks,” 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.”

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

¶ Third, one ought to open his hand to offer gifts, Matt. 2[:11]: “Opening their treasures, they offered him gifts,” etc.

¶ First, a man ought to open for his neighbor, namely, his heart for loving and feeling pity, just as the iron door was opened [for Peter, Act. 12:10].

¶ Second, the mouth for correcting the delinquent, Eccli. [22:27]: “If thou hast opened a sad mouth, fear not,” etc. For teaching the ignorant, Psal. [77:2]: “I will open my mouth in parables.” For helping the powerless, Prov. the last 31[:8]: “Open your mouth for the dumb,” etc.

¶ Third, one ought to open his hand in assisting to which he has asked Prov. the last 31[:20]: “She has opened her hand to the needy and stretched out her hands to the poor.” Again, for things received, Deut. [15:7-8]: “Nor close your hand,” for helping, “but open it.” Again, nature, Prov. 27[:25]: “The meadows are open.” But, alas, because it is to be lamented 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.” Doors for introducing the fornicator, Deut. 11[:6]: “Opening her mouth,” etc.