

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus our Savior! Dear sisters! ... [You] have understood correctly that there are two reason to leave your convent life and your vows. The first is, when human law and convent life are maintained with force and are not a matter of choice, and the conscience is burdened through this. Then one should leave, and the convents and everything should be opened. . . . The other reason is the flesh. Although women are ashamed to admit such things, both Scripture and experience teach that among many thousands there is not one to whom God gives the grace to maintain pure chastity. ... God created her body to be with a man, bear children and raise them, as Scripture makes clear in Genesis I. ... It is created by God, and He also wants what is natural, that is men and women being together in marriage. Therefore one should be contented and not be ashamed, for God created and made them for this.

Source: Martin Luther, *Letter to Three Nuns at Wittenberg*, 1524