

Cambridge Elements

Elements in Early Christian Literature

edited by
Garrick V. Allen
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MAXIMOS THE CONFESSOR

*Androprimacy and Sexual
Difference*

Luis Josué Salés
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Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-49219-5 — Maximos the Confessor
Androprimacy and Sexual Difference
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Frontmatter

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Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

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www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009492195

DOI: 10.1017/9781009492188

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009492188

First published 2025

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-009-49219-5 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-009-49221-8 Paperback

ISSN 2977-0327 (online)

ISSN 2977-0319 (print)

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First published online: February 2025

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Abstract: Maximos affirms in various texts (such as Difficulty 41) that sexual differentiation into male and female is inconsistent with the divine intention and will therefore be eschatologically eradicated. His affirmations have elicited a half-dozen conflicting interpretations, such as the metaphorization of these statements, where “male” refers to drive (*thymos*) and “female” to desire (*epithymia*), which become subordinate to reason (*logos*). Others maintain that he refers to the resolution of male–female agonistics. Yet others have criticized accounts that mollify the starkness of Maximos’ affirmations. This Element goes further in arguing that Maximos tacitly envisions the elimination of sexual difference as sublimation of all sexual difference into male singularity. This Element overviews the exegetical and medical-anthropological precedents that framed Maximos thinking on this subject and examines some of his key texts, including his famed Difficulty 41 and several passages centered on explicating Eve and Adam, and Mary and Christ.

Keywords: Maximos, gender, sexual difference, androprimacy, eschatology

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ISBNs: 9781009492195 (HB), 9781009492218 (PB), 9781009492188 (OC)
ISSNs: 2977-0327 (online), 2977-0319 (print)

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