Function and Purpose of Virginity Among Early Christians
I. Sexual Continence Removing Flesh from the Cycle of Birth, Decay, and Death
II. With the End of the World Approaching, No Further Need for Reproduction
III. Women Released from the Dangers of Childbirth
IV. Emphasis on the Individual Alone, Separate from Familial, Tribal, or National Identities and Obligations
V. Women Treated Equally with Men When Removed from the Subordinate Role of Wife and Mother

Hagiography: Thecla, Perpetua, Radegund
I. Selection of Virgin, Wife, Widow
II. Saints' Lives as Enabling both the Representations of Women and Women Writing
III. Useful as Models of Behavior or as Exceptions
IV. Testifying to God's glory through actions of individuals
V. Putting Principles of Discourse into Practice
VI. Thecla
1. Acts of the Apostles
   A. Continuing Christ's Mission on Earth
      i. converting
      ii. healing
      iii. casting out demons
      iv. raising the dead
   B. Journeys and Travels
2. Conventions of Greek Romance -- Adventure Tales; Love Triangles
3. Refiguring the Family
   A. Adoption
   B. Maternity without Sexuality

VII. Perpetua
1. Standing up to authority of father and of the devil makes her a man
2. Taking care of her family [Dinocrates]
3. Combat motif

VIII. Radegund
1. Refashioning the Role of the family
   a. housecleaning
   b. washing
   c. feeding
   d. curing
2. Queen on earth through humiliations and mortifications becomes Queen in Heaven