



Ascent to Love: A Guide to Dante's Divine Comedy

Peter J. Leithart

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As one of the supreme Christian epic poems, Dante's *Divine Comedy* provides not only far more personality and emotional depth than the pagan epics, it also opens up all the issues on which Western history turns—truth, beauty, goodness, sin, sanctification, and triumph. For all that, C.S. Lewis loved the *Comedy* for its seemingly effortless poetry.

In this guide Peter Leithart uses a biblical angle to open up the *Comedy* for students, high school and up. He begins his discussion by examining the meaning and place of the courtly love tradition and then introduces us to the varied levels of meaning throughout the work. In the heart of the guide, Leithart walks us carefully through the craft and symbolism of each progressive stage—*Inferno*, *Purgatorio*, and *Paradiso*. Each section contains helpful study questions.

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