CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	xi
Introduction	1
Setting the Scene	1
The Structure of the Study	3
Resisting the Charge of Anachronism: Semantic and Terminological Clarifications	6
The Renaissance of Scholarly Interest in Gregory of Nyssa: From Obscurity to Approbation to Eisegesis	12
Prelude	19
Christianity after Constantine's Conversion	19
The Burgeoning Monastic Movement	22
The Asceticism of Gregory's Family	25
Conclusion	28
PART ONE. THE EARLY PHASE, 371-SEPTEMBER 378: THE INTEGRATIVE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BODY IN	
THE LIFE OF VIRTUE	29
1. Marriage, Celibacy, and Pederasty	. 33
Marriage and Celibacy	33
Pederasty and Celibacy	44
Conclusion	52

2.	The Integration of the Virtues	53
	Sexual Lust in the De virginitate	53
	The Reciprocity of the Virtues	55
	The Proliferation of Vice and the Example of Gluttony	57
3.	Gregory's Emerging Theory of Desire	62
	Erotic Desire	62
	The Criterion of Need	62
	The Passions	64
	Moderation	65
	Satiety versus Fulfillment	66
	The Moral Evocations of Male and Female Characteristics	68
	Conclusion	70
TH	RT TWO. THE MIDDLE PHASE, SEPTEMBER 378–387: E ASCETICAL AND ESCHATOLOGICAL MIXTURE MALE AND FEMALE	<i>7</i> 1
4.	A Worldly Life of Desire: Marriage, Children, Money, and Sex	75
•	The Problems of Marriage	75
	Physical Fecundity	77
	The Particular Challenges of Sexual Vice	83
	The Moral Evocations of Male and Female Characteristics	84
5.	The Death of Siblings	88
	"No Longer Male and Female in Christ Jesus"	89
	Sexual Morphology: Anthropological and Eschatological Perspectives	96
	Refinements in Gregory's Theory of Desire	104
6.	Doctrinal Controversies: Christological and Trinitarian	107
	The Diachronic Unfolding of the Spiritual Life: Christological Reflections	107
	Gregory's Doctrine of God: Intra-Trinitarian Relationships and the Ascetic Life	112
	Conclusion	115
	RT THREE. THE LATE PHASE, 387–394: EROTIC INTIMACY TH CHRIST AND THE MATURATION OF DESIRE	117
7.	Spiritual Maturation: Virginity and the Narrative of Progress	123
•	Recasting Virginity	123
	The Diachronic Train of Moral and Spiritual Progress	125
		-

8.	Male and Female: Diachronic Exchanges	138
	Male and Female in the Late Period	139
	Intimacy with Christ	147
	Conclusion	152
	Conclusion	155
	Overview	155
	The Challenges Posed to Contemporary Ethical Discourse	157
Арр	pendix	163
Abbreviations		179 181 219
Noi		
Bibliography		
Index		255

.