

## first century ignatius antioch epistles CLEANED

St. Ignatius: First Century Antioch Epistles Ignatius, also called Theophorus, to the Church of God the Father and of Jesus Christ the beloved in Smyrna, obtained every spiritual gift, is filled with faith and love, and is adorned with holiness: I glorify God, even Jesus Christ, who has given you such wisdom. I have seen that your faith is steadfast, as if were nailed to the cross o Christ, both in flesh and spirit, and are established in love through the blood o Christ. You are fully persuaded t our Lord was truly of the seed of David according to the flesh, and the Son by the will and power of God; that H truly born of a virgin, baptized by John to fulfill all righteousness, and truly crucified in the flesh under Pontius Pilate and Herod the tetrarch for us. By His blessed passion, He raised standard for all ages through His resur uniting all His holy and faithful ones Jews and Gentiles in the on of His Church[1][3]. Christ truly suffered all the things for our sake that we might be saved. He truly suffered, and truly rose from dead, not, as some unbelieve that He only seemed to suffer. As they believe falsely, so shall it happen t when they will be disembodied spirit After His resurrection, Christ was still in the flesh. When He appeared to Peter and others, He said, "Handle Me that I am not a spirit." They touched Him and believed, convinced both by His flesh and spirit. Because of t they despised death and overcame it. After the resurrection, He also ate and drank with them as one with a bo spiri united to the Father. I warn you to be careful and avoid those who deny Christs physical suffering and resurrec not receive o meet such people, except to pray for their repentance which is very difficult. If what the Lord did w only in appearance, then I am also only suffering in appearance. But, being close to suffering is being close to it is for Jesus Christ, who became a perfect man and inwardly strengthens me. Some ignorantly deny Him, sho themselves to be advocates of death, not truth. They have not been persu prophets, the law, or the Gospel, no sufferings Christians endure. Whoever does not confess that Chris had a body has denied Him entirely and is d spirit. Let no one deceive himself. Whether heavenly beings or rulers, visible or invisible, if they do not believe the of Christ, they incur condemnation. What is most valuable is faith and love, far above position or status. Th reject the grace of Christ have no care for love, the widow, orphan, oppressed, or needy. Avoid such heretics. abstain from the Eucharist and prayer because they do not confess that the Eucharist flesh of Jesus Christ, whic for our sins and was raised by the Father. Those who oppose this gift of G death upon themselves. Therefore, from them and follow the prophets and, above all, the Gospel, i passion and resurrection of Christ are fully reve Avoid all divisions, as they are the beginnings of evil. Let nothing be done without the bishop. Follow the

bishop Jesus Christ follows the Father, and the presbyte apostles. Respect the deacons as God's institution. Do nothing relating to the Church without the bishop. The one Eucharist is one celebrated by the bishop or someone authorized. Where the bishop is, the people are; where Christ is, there is the Catholic Church. Without the bishop, it is not permitted to baptize or hold a love-feast. Everything that is approved by the bishop is pleasing to God and secure reasonable that we return to sober conduct and, while we have time, repent toward God. Honor both God as he honors the bishop is honored by God; whoever acts without the bishop serves the devil. May it be to you, for you are. You have refreshed me in everything, and Jesus Christ will refresh you. May God endure all things and you Him. You have received Philo and Rheus Agathopus as servants of God, who thank the Lord on your behalf for this will be lost to you. My spirit and my bonds, which you have not despised, are for you; nor shall Jesus Christ, hope, be ashamed of you. Your prayer has reached the Church at Antioch in Syria. Therefore, for the glory of God the Church should send worthy delegates to Antioch to congratulate them that they are at peace and fully restored. It is for one of members, accompanied by a letter, to join them in rejoicing over their tranquility, for by your prayers, have reached safe harbor. Strive for perfection, and God will help you. The love of the brethren at Troas greets you by Burrhus, whom you sent with me along with the other brethren, and who has refreshed me. I wish to imitate him, for he is a true minister of God. Grace will be to him. I greet your worthy bishop, venerable presbytery, dear fellow-servants, and all of you, both individually and collectively, in Jesus Christ, in His flesh and blood, in His passion and resurrection, both physical and spiritual, united with God and you. Grace, mercy, peace, and patience be with you forever. I greet the families, wives, children, and virgins who are called widows. Be strong in the Holy Spirit. Phileas who with me, greets you. I greet the house of Tivias and pray it is established in faith and love, both physically and spiritually. I greet Alce, Daphnus, Eutecnus, and all by name, in the grace of God [1][3][2].