

Ignatius Letters CLEANED

St. Ignatius: Ignatius Letters THE LETTERS OF ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH To the Ephesians Ignatius Theophorus greets the Church of congratulate you and wish you perfect joy in Jesu You have grown in spiritual stature through the fullness of G Father and have been predestined for etern unchanging glory, united and chosen by the will of the Father and Christ, our God. 1. I have welcomed your beloved name, which is yours because of your goodness in faith and Jesus Savior. As imitators of God, with hearts warmed by the blood of God, you have perfectly carried out you responsibilities. You were eager to visit me when you heard I was on my way from Syria, in chains for our com with your prayers to face the wild beasts in Rome and become a disciple. In Gods name, I received yo commu person of Onesimus, your bishopa man whose charity is beyond words. I urge you to love hi Christ and be like Blessed is He who gave you the grace to have such a bishop. 2. Burrhus, my fellow worker and your deacon b is a man blessed in every way. I pray he may con me, honoring both you and your bishop. Crocus, worthy of G you, has been a great comfort to me. M him, and also Onesimus, Burrhus, Euplus, and Fronto; through them, I the love of all of you. May I, worthy, have joy in you always. Therefore, glorify Jesus Christ in every way, who h given you glory so you m perfect in obedience to your bishop and priests, and be holy in every way. 3. I do not orders as someone of importance I have not yet been made perfect in Jesus Christ, even t a prisoner for His n beginning to be His disciple and speak to you as disciples. I need to be trained b faith, counsel, endurance, an long-suffering. Yet, love compels me to write to you and beg you to be in harmo Gods will. For Jesus Christ, th we cannot lose, is the mind of the Father, and the bishops appointed to the of the earth are of one mind with Je Christ. 4. It is right for you to agree, as you do, with your bishop. Your priests, worthy of the name and of God, like strings of a lyre in harmony with the bishop. Thus, in the unity of your minds and hearts, Jesus Christ is pra Become a choir, so that with one voice and one mind, taking the key-note from God, you may sing together thr the Father, who will recognize you in your good works as His members. It is good for you to be united you may share in God. 5. If in such a short time I have established such spiritual communion with your bishop, how muc should are united with him as the Church is with Jesus Christ, and as Jesus Christ is with the Father, so that a harmony. Let no one be deceived. If anyone is not within the Church, he is deprived of the Bread of God. For t two is powerful; how much more so is that of the bishop and the whole Church. Anyone who does no with the o shown pride and set himself apart. It is written: God resists the proud. Let us not oppose t bishop, so that we obey God. 6. Respect the bishop all

the more if he is a man of few words; whoever is sent by the Master should regard the Master Himself. Therefore, regard the bishop as you would the Lord Himself. Onesimus praises your orderly rule because you live in truth and accept no heresy. You do not listen to anyone unless he speaks in truth about Christ. There are some who, in deceit, bear the Name while acting in ways unworthy of God. Shun them as wild beasts that bite unexpectedly. There is one Doctor active in both body and soul, begotten and unbegotten man, true life Son of Mary and Son of God, first able to suffer and then unable to suffer: Jesus Christ, Lord. 8. Let no one deceive you. As long as nothing within you torments you, you are living according to God. I offer as a sacrifice on your behalf for your Church which will be remembered always.

Fleshly people cannot do the work of the Spirit, nor can faith do the work of unbelief. Since you do all things in Jesus Christ, even your outward deeds are spiritual. 9. I have learned that some strangers with bad doctrine have passed your way, but you did not let them sow there. Like stones of a temple, prepared by God, you have been lifted up by the Cross of Christ and the Holy Spirit. For you; charity led you to God. You are fellow pilgrims, bearers of God and His temple, adorned in the name of Jesus Christ. 10. Do not cease to pray for people; there is always hope for their conversion. Behave in a way that instructs those who oppose you: answer pride with humility, blasphemies with prayers, error with steadfast faith, or with gentleness. Do not rush to retaliate; instead, show yourself as their brother. Be eager to imitate the Lord, but first to bear wrongs, losses, and contempt that evil has no root among you. Remain in Jesus Christ in perfect and self-control. 11. The last days are near. Let us live in reverence, fearing God's patience lest it turn to judgment. Either let us fear the coming wrath or love the grace we have so long as we are found in Jesus Christ. Let nothing attract you from Him; through His help I bear chains gladly, counting them as spiritual pearls, and with your prayers, in the company of the Christian Ephesians know who I am and to whom I write: I am condemned; you have received mercy. I am in danger; you are a path that leads to die for God. You have shared in the sacraments with Paul, who was made a martyr; may I follow steps. 13. Be eager to assemble frequently to give thanks and praise to God. When you gather often, Satan's danger is dissolved in your unity. There is nothing better than peace, which ends all conflict in heaven and 14. have perfect faith and love for Jesus Christ the beginning and end of life then you know all these truths. Faith is the beginning; love, the end; God is both, brought into unity. After these are all the Christian virtues. No one who professes the faith commits sin, and no one possessed of charity hates. A tree is known by its fruit; so those who belong to Christ are known by their deeds.

What matters is not mere profession, but perseverance in faith. 15. It is better to say nothing and be a Christian, than to talk and not be one. It is good to teach, if one practices what he teaches. There is one Teacher who spoke, and it was done; even His silent deeds were worthy of the Word. Whoever hears the word of Jesus can also heed His silence and thus be perfect, acting through His words in His silence. Nothing is higher than the Lord. Let us do everything as if He dwelt within us. He is our God within the temple.

This will be clear from our love for Him. 16. Do not be deceived: those who corrupt families will not inherit God's kingdom. How much worse someone the faith by bad doctrine he will depart into unquenchable fire, as will anyone who listens to him. 17. He received the ointment on His head to impart the fragrance of incorruptibility to the Church. Do not the bad odor of false doctrine. Why do we not all become wise by accepting the knowledge of God, which is Jesus? 18. I offer my life nothing in comparison with the Cross, which is a stumbling block to those without faith, but salvation and eternal life. Where are the wise and prudent of this world? Our God, Jesus Christ, was born of David's line, and baptism sanctify the waters by His passion. 19. The virginity of Mary, her childbirth, and the Lord's death were hidden from the prince of this world. Three mysteries accomplished in the silence of God. When God appeared in the form of a man for eternal life, all were shaken for the plan of abolishing death. 20. If, through your prayers and His will, Jesus Christ grants me the opportunity, I will explain more fully in another letter about the new man, Jesus Christ, who is of David's line. Gather together in charity and faith in Jesus Christ: obey the bishop and priests. Break one Bread, the medicine of immortality, the antidote against death, enabling us to live forever in Jesus Christ. 21. I offer my life for you and for those whom you sent to Smyrna. I write to you from here, loving Polycarp as I love you. Remember me as Jesus Christ loves you. Pray for the Church in Smyrna, from which I, the last of the being, was led away to Rome as a prisoner. Farewell to the Father and Jesus Christ, our common hope. [End of excerpt: *To the Ephesians*] Further letters (*To the Magnesians*, *To the Trallians*, *To the Romans*, *To the Philadelphians*, *To the Smyrnaeans*) follow a similar structure focused on love and unity, emphasizing obedience to the bishop, the integrity of Christ's doctrine and practice, unity of faith, and the imitation of Christ, omitting rambling or ornate language, introductory footnotes, and publisher notes for modern readability.