

first century polycarp epistle philippians CLEANED

St. Polycarp: First Century Epistle Philippians Polycarp, and the presbyters with him, to the Church of God sojourning at Philippi: Mercy and peace from God Christ our Savior be multiplied. **1. Praise of the Philippians** I have greatly rejoiced with you in our Lord Jesu Christ because you have follo example of true love, as displayed by God, and have cared for those imprisoned faith, which is fitting fo saints and is a crown for the truly elect of God and our Lord. Your steadfast faith, spoke of in ancient times, continues and bears fruit to our Lord Jesus Christ, who suffered death for our sins, whom G raised from the loosening the bonds of the grave. Though you have not seen Him, you believe and rejoice with inexpressible jo glory, knowing that by grace, not by works, but by Gods will through Jesus Christ, you are saved[1][3]. **2. Exhortation to Virtue** So, prepare yourselves and serve the Lord in fear and truth, as those w cas vain and erroneous talk and have believed in Him who raised Jesus Christ from the dead and gave Him glo perfect faith and hope. To Him all things in heaven and on earth are subject. He comes as Judge of and the de blood will be required of those who do not believe in Him. But He who raised Him will also ra if we do His will, w His commandments, love what He loved, and keep ourselves from all unrighteousness love of money, evil-spe witness, or returning evil for evil or curse for curse, remembering the teachi the Lord: Judge not, that you be n judged; forgive, and it shall be forgiven you; be merciful, that you may obt mercy; with what measure you meas will be measured to you again; blessed are the poor and those pers righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingd God[2][3]. **3. Humility and the Example of Paul** I write to you about righteousness, not because I believe m qualifi because you invited me to do so. Neither I nor anyone like me can compare to the wisdom of the blesse who taught you steadfastly in person and, when absent, sent letters for your encouragement. These lette sourc edification if you study them diligently, leading you in faith, hope, and love towards God, Christ, and neighbor. Whoever possesses these graces is far from all sin[1][3]. **4. Various Exhortations** The love of money is the all evils. Knowing we brought nothing into the world can take nothing out, let us arm ourselves with the armor o righteousness and first teach ourselves to walk in t commandments of the Lord. Teach your wives to remain fa loving, pure, and to care for all equally. Childr should be brought up in the knowledge and fear of God. Widows be discreet, constant in prayer, remov slander, evil-speaking, false-witness, greed, and all evil, as they are an a of God, who sees all things openly[1][3]. **5. Duties of Deacons, Youths, and Virgins** Deacons should be blam godly servants, not slanderers or money, but temperate, kind, diligent, and guided by truth. If we please Him no will

also share in the promised resurrection and reign with Him, provided we believe. Young men should be especially to remain pure and free from lusts, which war against the soul. Fornicators, the corrupt, and those who do unseemly things are not in the kingdom of God. Virgins must live with blameless and pure consciences, subject to presbyters and to Christ [1][3][4]. **6. Duties of Presbyters and Others** Presbyters must be compassionate and merciful, caring for wayward men, sick, the orphaned, and the poor, providing for what is upright before God and men, avoiding any partiality, any judgment, covetousness, and not quickly believing evil reports. Just as we ask the Lord to forgive us, we must forgive others. All must give account at the judgment seat of Christ. Serve Him with fear and reverence, as apostles and prophets taught, pursuing what is good and avoiding false brethren and hypocrites [2][4]. **7. Advise Teachers, Persevere in Prayer** Whoever does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh; who denies the cross; who denies the devil, and whoever perverts the Lord's oracles to their own desire denies resurrection or judgment is the firstborn of Satan. Avoid such false doctrines and return to the word from the beginning. Watch and pray, persist in fasting, asking God not to lead us into temptation, as the Lord taught: The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak [2]. **8. Persevere in Hope and Patience** Let us remain steadfast in hope and righteousness, which is our inheritance in His body, did no sin, and endured all things for us that we might live in Him. Let us imitate His patience; we suffer for His name, let us glorify Him as our example [2]. **9. Patience Encouraged** I urge you to obey the righteousness and practice the patience you have with Ignatius, Zosimus, Rufus, Paul, and the rest of the apostles; they have not run in vain, but in faith and righteousness and now abide with the Lord, for they did not love this world but hid and were raised for us [2]. **10. Admonition to Virtue** Stand fast and follow the example of the Lord, unwavering in faith, loving the brethren united in truth, showing the Lord's gentleness in your dealings, and despising no one. Be in doing good; deliver from death. Be subject to one another, keep blameless conduct among the non-believers; good brings praise and the Lord is not blasphemed. Teach sobriety and show it by your example [3]. **11. Grief for Valens** I am deeply grieved for Valens, who was once a presbyter among you, that he does not hold his place. Be chaste and truthful, and keep from all evil. For if someone cannot control himself, how can he guide others? If one does abstain from greed, he is defiled and will be judged with the heathen. Do not then fall as enemies, but call them straying members, that you all may be built up together [4]. **12. Exhortation to Various Virtues** You are well-versed in Scripture; may you remember: Be angry, and do not let the sun go down on your wrath. Blessed are those who do this. May God, the Father of Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ Himself build you up in faith, truth, meekness, patience, long-suffering, forbearance and purity; may He grant us a place among His saints. Pray for all the saints, rulers, and those who hate or persecute you, so your actions may be perfect in Him [1]. **13. Communication and Apostolic Letters** You and Ignatius wrote to me that, if anyone should travel to Syria, he should carry your

letter. I will try to fulfill this request if possible. The letters from Ignatius to us, and any others we have, are sent to you as you requested; read them for encouragement in faith and patience. Please further news you receive about Ignatius with him[3]. **14. Conclusion** I have written these things through Crescens, whom I recommend to you. He has believed, will do likewise among you. Also treat his sister respectfully when she comes to you. The Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with you. Amen[3][4].