

5 - Philadelphians

by Ignatius of Antioch

Ignatius's sermon emphasizes the importance of unity in the church under the leadership of the bishop while warning against division and false teachings.

Duration: 9:48

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:10, 1 Corinthians 10:17, 1 Corinthians 11:1, 1 Corinthians 11:18-19, 1 Corinthians 11:25, Ephesians 4:3, Ephesians 5:1

Topics: "Audio Books"

Description

The sermon transcripts highlight the importance of unity and adherence to the teachings of Jesus Christ. The bishop is praised for his virtuous and calm temperament, which is seen as a reflection of his love for God and Jesus Christ. The transcripts emphasize the need to avoid division and false doctrines, and to follow the shepherd, who represents the unity of the church. The importance of the Eucharist is also emphasized as a symbol of unity and communion with Jesus Christ.

Transcript

Ignatius, who is also Theophorus, to the church of God the Father, and of Jesus Christ, which is in Philadelphia of Asia, which hath found mercy, and is firmly established in the in the conquered of God, and rejoiceth in the passion of our Lord, and in his resurrection, without wavering, being fully assured in all mercy, which church I salute in the blood of Jesus Christ, that is eternal and abiding joy, more especially if they be at one with the bishop, and the presbyters who are with him, and with the deacons that have been appointed according to the mind of Jesus Christ, whom after his own will he confirmed and established by his Holy Spirit. End of chapter zero, chapter one. This, your bishop, I have found to hold the ministry which pertaineth to the common wheel, not of himself or through men, nor yet for vain glory, but in the love of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

And I am amazed at his forbearance, whose silence is more powerful than others' speech. For he is attuned in harmony with the commandments, as a lyre with its strings. Wherefore my soul blesseth his godly mind, for I have found that it is virtuous and perfect, even the imperturbable and calm temper which he hath, while living in all godly forbearance.

End of chapter one, chapter two. As children, therefore, of the light, of the truth, shun division and wrong doctrines, and where the shepherd is, there follow ye as sheep. For many specious wolves, with baneful delights, lead captive the runners in God's race.

But where ye are at one, they will find no place. End of chapter two, chapter three. Abstain from noxious herbs, which are not the husbandry of Jesus Christ, because they are not the planting of the Father.

Not that I have found division among you, but filtering. For as many as are of God, and of Jesus Christ, they are with the bishop. And as many as shall repent and enter into the unity of the church, these also shall be of God, that they may be living after Jesus Christ.

Be not deceived, my brethren, if any man followeth one that maketh a schism, he doth not inherit the kingdom of God. If any man walketh in strange doctrine, he hath no fellowship with the passion. End of chapter three, chapter four.

Be ye careful, therefore, to observe one Eucharist, for there is one flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ, and one cup unto union in his blood. There is one altar, as there is one bishop, together with the presbytery and the deacons, my fellow-servants, that whatsoever ye do, ye may do it after God. End of chapter four, chapter five.

My brethren, my heart overfloweth altogether in love towards you, and rejoicing above measure, I watch over your safety, yet not I, but Jesus Christ, wearing whose bonds I am the more afraid, because I am not yet perfected. But your prayer will make me perfect unto God, that I may attain unto the inheritance wherein I have found mercy, taking refuge in the gospel as the flesh of Jesus, and in the apostles as the presbytery of the church. Yea, and we love the prophets also, because they too pointed to the gospel in their preaching, and set their hope on him, and awaited him, in whom also having faith they were saved in the unity of Jesus Christ, being worthy of all love and admiration, as holy men, approved of Jesus Christ, and numbered together in the gospel of our common hope.

End of chapter five, chapter six. But if any one propound Judaism unto you, hear him not, for it is better to hear Christianity from a man who is circumcised, than Judaism from one uncircumcised. But if either the one or the other speak not concerning Jesus Christ, I look on them as tombstones, and graves of the dead, whereon are inscribed only the names of men.

Shun ye therefore the wicked arts and plottings of the prince of this world, lest, happily, ye be crushed by his devices, and wax weak in your love. But assemble yourselves all together with undivided heart. And I give thanks to my God, that I have a good conscience in my dealings with you.

And no man can boast, either in secret or openly, that I was burdensome to any one in small things or in great. Yea, and for all among whom I spoke, it is my prayer that they may not turn it into a testimony against themselves. End of chapter six, chapter seven.

For even though certain persons desire to deceive me after the flesh, yet the spirit is not deceived, being from God. For it knoweth whence it cometh, and where it goeth. And it searcheth out the hidden things.

I cried out when I was among you. I spake with a loud voice, with God's own voice. Give ye heed to the bishop, and the presbytery, and deacons.

Howbeit there were those who suspected me of saying this, because I knew beforehand of the division of certain persons. But he in whom I am bound is my witness, that I learned it not from flesh of man. It was the preaching of the spirit who spake on this wise.

Do nothing without the bishop. Keep your flesh as a temple of God. Cherish union.

Shun divisions. Be imitators of Jesus Christ, as he himself also was of his father. End of chapter seven, chapter eight.

I therefore did my own part, as a man composed unto union. But where there is division and anger, there God abideth not. Now the Lord forgiveth all men when they repent.

If repenting, they return to the unity of God, and to the counsel of the bishop. I have faith in the grace of Jesus Christ, who shall strike off every fetter from you. And I entreat you, do ye nothing in a spirit of factiousness, but after the teaching of Christ.

For I heard certain persons saying, If I find it not in the charters, I believe it not in the gospel. And when I said to them, It is written, they answered me, That is the question. But as for me, my charter is Jesus Christ.

The inviolable charter is his cross, and his death, and his resurrection, and faith through him, wherein I desire to be justified through your prayers. End of chapter eight, chapter nine. The priests likewise were good, but better is the high priest to whom is committed the holy of holies.

For to him alone are committed the hidden things of God. He himself being the door of the Father, through which Abraham and Isaac and Jacob enter in, and the prophets and the apostles and the whole church, all these things combine in the unity of God. But the gospel hath a singular preeminence in the advent of the Saviour, even our Lord Jesus Christ, and his passion and resurrection.

For the beloved prophets in their preaching pointed to him. But the gospel is the completion of immortality. All things together are good, if ye believe through love.

End of chapter nine, chapter ten. Seeing that in answer to your prayer, and to the tender sympathy which ye have in Christ Jesus, it hath been reported to me, that the church which is in Antioch of Syria hath peace. It is becoming for you, as a church of God, to appoint a deacon to go thither as God's ambassador, that he may congratulate them when they are assembled together, and may glorify the name.

Blessed in Jesus Christ is he that shall be counted worthy of such administration, and ye yourselves shall be glorified. Now, if ye desire it, it is not impossible for you to do this for the name of God, even as the churches which are nearest have sent bishops, and others presbyters and deacons. End of chapter ten, chapter eleven.

But as touching Philo the deacon from Cilicia, a man of good report, who now also ministereth to me in the word of God, together with Raius Agathopis, an elect one, who followeth me from Syria, having bidden farewell to this present life, the same who also bear witness to you, and I myself thank God on your behalf, because ye received them, as I trust the Lord will receive you. But may those who treated them with dishonor be redeemed through the grace of Jesus Christ. The love of the brethren which are in Troas saluteth you, from whence also I write to you by the hand of Burrus, who was sent with me by the Ephesians and Smyrnians as a mark of honour.

The Lord shall honour them, even Jesus Christ, on whom their hope is set, in flesh and soul and spirit, by faith, by love, by conquered. Fare ye well in Christ Jesus, our common hope.

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