

Exhortations to Faith and Love

by Ignatius of Antioch

Faith and love are inseparable and together perfect the man of God, making a holy life possible.

Scripture: Matthew 7:20, 1 Corinthians 13:13, Galatians 5:6, James 2:17, 1 John 4:20

Topics: "Faith And Love", "Christian Living"

Description

Ignatius of Antioch emphasizes the importance of possessing faith and love towards Christ, as they are the foundation and culmination of a Christian's life. Faith initiates life, while love completes it, and these two qualities are intertwined in perfecting a person of God. He stresses that those who claim faith should not sin, and those who have love should not harbor hatred towards others, as loving God and loving one's neighbor are interconnected. True followers of Christ are recognized not just by their words but by their actions, as a tree is known by its fruit.

Transcript

Wherefore none of the devices of the devil shall be hidden from you, if, like Paul, ye perfectly possess that faith and love towards Christ which are the beginning and the end of life. The beginning of life is faith, and the end is love.

And these two being inseparably connected together, do perfect the man of God; while all other things which are requisite to a holy life follow after them. No man making a profession of faith ought to sin, nor one possessed of love to hate his brother. For He that said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God," said also, "and thy neighbour as thyself." Those that profess themselves to be Christ's are known not only by what they say, but by what they practise. "For the tree is known by its fruit."

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/ignatius-of-antioch/exhortations-to-faith-and-love/>

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