

I Have Exhorted You to Unity

by Ignatius of Antioch

Ignatius of Antioch's sermon calls for unity within the church, emphasizing the importance of following church leaders and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture: John 16:13, 1 Corinthians 1:10, 1 Corinthians 2:10, Ephesians 4:3, 1 Timothy 3:1

Topics: "Church Unity", "Spiritual Discernment"

Description

Ignatius of Antioch emphasizes the importance of spiritual discernment, stating that his spirit is guided by God and can detect the secrets of the heart. He urges the congregation to heed the leadership of the bishop, presbytery, and deacons, emphasizing unity and love while avoiding divisions. Ignatius asserts that his knowledge and guidance come from the Spirit and not from human sources, encouraging the believers to follow the teachings of the apostles and Christ.

Transcript

For though some would have deceived me according to the flesh, yet my spirit is not deceived; for I have received it from God. For it knows both whence it comes and whither it goes, and detects the secrets [of the heart]. For when I was among you, I cried, I spoke with a loud voice-the word is not mine, but God's-Give heed to the bishop, and to the presbytery and deacons.

But if ye suspect that I spake thus, as having learned beforehand the division caused by some among you, He is my witness, for whose sake I am in bonds, that I learned nothing of it from the mouth of any man.

But the Spirit made an announcement to me, saying as follows: Do nothing without the bishop; keep your bodies as the temples of God; love unity; avoid divisions; be ye followers of Paul, and of the rest of the apostles, even as they also were of Christ.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/ignatius-of-antioch/i-have-exhorted-you-to-unity/>

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