

# Let Nothing Be Done Without the Bishop

by Ignatius of Antioch

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*Ignatius of Antioch emphasizes the importance of following the bishop's guidance and authority in the Church, as a way to ensure that all activities are done in accordance with God's will.*

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 11:2, 1 Timothy 3:1, Titus 1:5, Hebrews 13:17, 1 Peter 5:1

**Topics:** "Church Authority", "Ecclesiastical Leadership"

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## Description

Ignatius of Antioch emphasizes the importance of following the leadership within the Church hierarchy, comparing it to the relationship between Christ and the Father. He stresses the reverence and obedience towards bishops, presbyters (elders), and deacons, highlighting their roles as appointed by God. Ignatius underscores the necessity of the bishop's presence in Church activities, such as administering the Eucharist, baptizing, offering sacrifices, and leading love-feasts, as everything done under the bishop's authority is pleasing to God.

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## Transcript

See that ye all follow the bishop, even as Christ Jesus does the Father, and the presbytery as ye would the apostles. Do ye also reverence the deacons, as those that carry out [through their office] the appointment of God.

Let no man do anything connected with the Church without the bishop. Let that be deemed a proper Eucharist, which is [administered] either by the bishop, or by one to whom he has entrusted it. Wherever the bishop shall appear, there let the multitude [of the people] also be; even as where Christ is, there does all the heavenly host stand by, waiting upon Him as the Chief Captain of the Lord's might, and the Governor of every intelligent nature.

It is not lawful without the bishop either to baptize, or to offer, or to present sacrifice, or to celebrate a love-feast. But that which seems good to him, is also well-pleasing to God, that everything ye do may be secure and valid.

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