

# The Epistle of Ignatius to The Philadelphians



# The Epistle of Ignatius to the Philadelphians

The Epistle of Ignatius to the Philadelphians (often abbreviated Ign. Phil.) is an epistle attributed to Ignatius of Antioch, a second-century bishop of Antioch, and addressed to the church in Philadelphia of Asia Minor. It was written during Ignatius' transport from Antioch to his execution in Rome.

## Composition

**See also: Ignatius of Antioch § Epistles**

Philadelphians is one of seven epistles attributed to Ignatius that are generally accepted as authentic. In 5th century, this collection was enlarged by spurious letters.

It is clear that Philadelphians was written soon before the martyrdom of Ignatius, but it is uncertain when precisely this martyrdom occurred. Tradition places the martyrdom of Ignatius in the reign of Trajan, who was emperor of Rome from 98 to 117 AD. While many scholars accept the traditional dating of Ignatius' martyrdom under Trajan, others have argued for a somewhat later date. Richard Pervo dated Ignatius' death to 135-140 AD, and British classicist Timothy Barnes has argued for a date some time in the 140's AD.

## Content

Ignatius warns the Philadelphians not to start any schisms within their church, but to stay unified and obey their bishops and presbyters:



# **The Epistle of Ignatus to The Philadelphians**

## **Apostolic Fathers (Lightfoot)**

**1:1** Ignatius is also Theophorus,

**1:2** to the church of God the Father of Jesus Christ,

**1:3** which is in Philadelphia of Asia,

**1:4** which hath found mercy and is firmly established in the concord of God and rejoiceth in the passion of our Lord and in His resurrection without wavering, being fully assured in all mercy;

**1:5** which church I salute in the blood of Jesus Christ, that is eternal and abiding joy;

**1:6** more especially if they be at one with the bishop and the presbyters who are with him,

**1:7** 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.

**1:8** This your bishop I have found to hold the ministry which pertaineth to the common weal,

**1:9** not of himself or through men, nor yet for vain glory, but in the love of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**1:10** And I am amazed at his forbearance;

**1:11** whose silence is more powerful than others' speech.

**1:12** For he is attuned in harmony with the commandments, as a lyre with its strings.

The Epistle of Ignatus to the Philadelphians

**1:13** 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.

**2:1** As children therefore [of the light] of the truth, shun division.

**2:2** and wrong doctrines;

**2:3** and where the shepherd is, there follow ye as sheep.

**2:4** For many specious wolves with baneful delights lead captive the runners in God's race;

**2:5** but, where ye are at one, they will find no place.

**3:1** Abstain from noxious herbs, which are not the husbandry of Jesus Christ, because they are not the planting of the Father.

**3:2** Not that I have found division among you, but filtering.

**3:3** For as many as are of God and of Jesus Christ, they are with the bishop;

**3:4** 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.

**3:5** Be not deceived, my brethren.

**3:6** If any man followeth one that maketh a schism, {he doth not inherit the kingdom of God.

**3:7** } If any man walketh in strange doctrine, he hath no fellowship with the passion.

**4:1** 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;

**4:2** there is one altar, as there is one bishop, together with the presbytery

The Epistle of Ignatus to the Philadelphians

and the deacons my fellow-servants), that whatsoever ye do, ye may do it after God.

**5:1** My brethren, my heart overfloweth altogether in love towards you;

**5:2** and rejoicing above measure I watch over your safety;

**5:3** yet not I, but Jesus Christ, wearing whose bonds I am the more afraid, because I am not yet perfected.

**5:4** But your prayer will make me perfect [unto God],

**5:5** 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.

**5:6** 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;

**5:7** 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.

**6:1** But if any one propound Judaism unto you, hear him not:

**6:2** for it is better to hear Christianity from a man who is circumcised than Judaism from one uncircumcised.

**6:3** 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.

**6:4** Shun ye therefore the wicked arts and plottings of the prince of this world, lest haply ye be crushed by his devices, and wax weak in your love.

**6:5** But assemble yourselves all together with undivided heart.

The Epistle of Ignatus to the Philadelphians

**6:6** 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.

**6:7** Yea and for all among whom I spoke, it is my prayer that they may not turn it into a testimony against themselves.

**7:1** For even though certain persons desired to deceive me after the flesh, yet the spirit is not deceived, being from God;

**7:2** for it knoweth {whence it cometh and where it goeth,} and it searcheth out the hidden things.

**7:3** I cried out, when I was among you;

**7:4** I spake with a loud voice, with God's own voice, Give ye heed to the bishop and the presbytery and deacons.

**7:5** Howbeit there were those who suspected me of saying this, because I knew beforehand of the division of certain persons.

**7:6** But He in whom I am bound is my witness that I learned it not from flesh of man;

**7:7** it was the preaching of the Spirit who spake on this wise;

**7:8** Do nothing without the bishop;

**7:9** keep your flesh as a temple of God;

**7:10** cherish union;

**7:11** shun divisions;

**7:12** be imitators of Jesus Christ, as He Himself also was of His Father.

**8:1** I therefore did my own part, as a man composed unto union.

**8:2** But where there is division and anger, there God abideth not.

**8:3** Now the Lord forgiveth all men when they repent, if repenting they return to the unity of God and to the council of the bishop.

**8:4** I have faith in the grace of Jesus Christ, who shall strike off every fetter from you;

**8:5** and I entreat you, Do ye nothing in a spirit of factiousness but after the teaching of Christ.

**8:6** For I heard certain persons saying, If I find it not in the charters, I believe it not in the Gospel.

**8:7** And when I said to them, It is written, they answered me That is the question.

**8:8** 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;

**8:9** wherein I desire to be justified through your prayers.

**9:1** The priests likewise were good, but better is the High-priest to whom is committed the holy of holies;

**9:2** for to Him alone are committed the hidden things of God;

**9:3** 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;

**9:4** all these things combine in the unity of God.

**9:5** But the Gospel hath a singular preeminence in the advent of the Saviour, even our Lord Jesus Christ, and His passion and resurrection.

**9:6** For the beloved Prophets in their preaching pointed to Him;

**9:7** but the Gospel is the completion of immortality.

**9:8** All things together are good, if ye believe through love.

**10:1** Seeing that in answer to your prayer and to the tender sympathy which ye have in Christ Jesus,

**10:2** it hath been reported to me that the church which is in Antioch of Syria hath peace,

**10:3** 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.

**10:4** Blessed in Jesus Christ is he that shall be counted worthy of such a ministration;

**10:5** and ye yourselves shall be glorified.

**10:6** Now if ye desire it, it is not impossible for you to do this for the name of God;

**10:7** even as the churches which are nearest have sent bishops, and others presbyters and deacons.

**11:1** But as touching Philo the deacon from Cilicia,

**11:2** a man of good report, who now also ministereth to me in the word of God, together with Rhaius Agathopus, an elect one who followeth me from Syria, having bidden farewell to this present life;

**11:3** 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.

**11:4** But may those who treated them with dishonour be redeemed through the grace of Jesus Christ.

**11:5** The love of the brethren which are in Troas saluteth you;

The Epistle of Ignatius to the Philadelphians

**11:6** from whence also I write to you by the hand of Burrhus, who was sent with me by the Ephesians and Smyrnaeans as a mark of honour.



## **Steven Books**

**League Enterprises  
Suite 3, 3<sup>rd</sup>. Floor  
148 Cambridge Heath Road  
London  
E1 5QJ**

For books by identity authors –  
Kenneth McKilliam, Ria Splinter  
and Richard Porter plus many  
other subjects and difficult to  
obtain books.

<http://www.stevenbooks.co.uk/category/341/Religion>

# **Contact us for details of audio tapes and articles by:-**

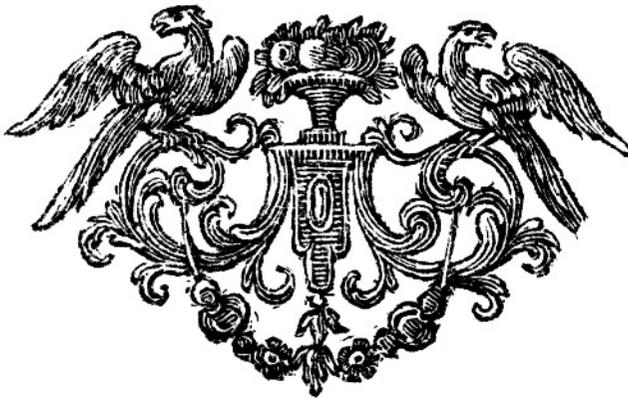
**Dr. Wesley A. Swift**

**Rev. Dr. Bertrand Comparet**

**Rev. William Gale**

**Captain K. R. McKilliam**

**Pastor Don Campbell**



**THE NEW CHRISTIAN CRUSADE  
CHURCH**

**CALLING THE PEOPLE OF BRITAIN**

**At last the bible makes sense!**

**At last we know its meaning.**

**Its the book of the RACE**

