



# The Well

an ordinary place  
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things happen

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# IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

## UNTOLD STORIES – PART 1

"WHAT CHRIST TAUGHT, THE APOSTLES PREACHED, AND THE FATHERS PRESERVED." ATHANASIUS OF ALEXANDRIA (296-373 A.D.)

### LETTER OF IGNATIUS TO THE ROMANS

"I am voluntarily dying for God – if, that is, you do not interfere. I plead with you, do not do me an unseasonable kindness. Let me be fodder for wild beasts – that is how I can get to God. I am God's wheat and I am being ground by the teeth of wild beasts to make a pure loaf for Christ." (ch. 4)

"Forgive me, I know what is good for me. Now is the moment I am beginning to be a disciple." (ch. 5)

"All the pleasures of the world, and all the kingdoms of this earth, shall profit me nothing. It is better for me to die on behalf of Jesus Christ, than to reign over all the ends of the earth. For what shall a man be profited, if he gain the whole world, but lose his own soul? Him I seek, who died for us: Him I desire, who rose again for our sake." (ch. 6)

"If, when I arrive, I make a different plea, pay no attention to me!" (ch. 7)

### WHO IS JESUS?

[Jesus is] "above time, the Timeless, the Unseen, the One who became visible for our sakes, who was beyond touch and passion, yet who for our sakes became subject to suffering, and endured everything for us." (Letter of Ignatius to Polycarp, ch. 3)

### WHAT IS THE EUCHARIST?

"...just as the historical body of Jesus is no mere phantasm, neither is the Eucharistic body of Christ some empty symbol. God takes on flesh and blood. And that flesh and blood is truly given to us in the Eucharist, the medicine of immortality and the antidote which wards off death but yields continuous life in union with Jesus Christ." (Letter of Ignatius to the Ephesians, ch. 20)

## WHY DOES UNITY MATTER?

“See that you all follow the bishop, even as Jesus Christ does the Father, and the presbytery as you would the apostles; and reverence the deacons, as being the institution of God...” (Letter of Ignatius to the Smyrnaeans, ch. 8)

“Give heed to the bishop, that God also may give heed to you. My soul be for theirs that are submissive to the bishop, to the presbyters, and to the deacons, and may my portion be along with them in God! Labor together with one another; strive in company together; run together; suffer together; sleep together; and awake together, as the stewards, and associates, and servants of God. Please Him under whom you fight, and from whom you receive your wages. Let none of you be found a deserter. Let your baptism endure as your arms; your faith as your helmet; your love as your spear; your patience as a complete panoply. Let your works be the charge assigned to you, that you may receive a worthy recompense. Be long-suffering, therefore, with one another, in meekness, as God is towards you. May I have joy of you for ever!  
(Letter of Ignatius to Polycarp, ch. 6)

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Do I approach the Eucharist in the way that the apostles/early church did? As “the medicine of immortality” and the means to “continuous union with Jesus Christ”?
2. Do I subject myself to the Church? Or do I seek to have the Church subjected to me?
3. Do I believe that Jesus is God? To what extent am I willing to go to unite with Him?



**“TO SHARE IN HIS PASSION, I GO THROUGH EVERYTHING.”**  
(LETTER OF IGNATIUS TO THE SMYRNAEANS, CH. 4)



# Welcome

*Whether  
you're just  
visiting or  
looking to  
stay, it's  
great to  
have you  
with us!*

## Calendar

### COFFEE'S ON US

Enjoy a hot cup of coffee and snacks.

### WE'D LOVE TO MEET YOU

Stop by the Connection Table so we can get to know each other.

### FILL YOUR BUCKET

The Well starts with a time of praise followed by an inspiring message.

- 12/08 THRILL OF HOPE HOLIDAY PARTY
- 12/11 YOUNG ADULT DISCUSSION: WOMEN
- 12/12 YOUNG ADULT DISCUSSION: MEN
- 12/16 LITURGY/WELL/SUNDAY SCHOOL AT WILLIAMSBURG M.S.

## Contact



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