

Main Theme:
Unity is Better than Sheer Numbers.
It is better & more effective to have a smaller group of people working together than masses of people all moving in different directions.

CHAPTER 10: Your Christian Witness is for the Salvation of Others

10:1 And *pray also without ceasing*¹ for the rest of mankind (for there is in them a hope of repentance), that they may find God. Therefore, *permit them to take lessons at least from your works*. 10:2 Against their outbursts of wrath **be meek**; against their proud words **be humble**; against their attacks set **your prayers**; against their errors be “**steadfast in the faith**,”² against their fierceness **be gentle**. Do not be zealous to imitate them by revenge. 10:3 Let us show ourselves their brothers by our patience; but let us be zealous to be imitators of the Lord, struggling with each other who shall tolerate the greater wrong, who shall be defrauded, who shall be set at nothing; that no herb³ of the devil be found in you: but in all purity and temperance⁴ abide in Christ Jesus, with your flesh and with your spirit.

CHAPTER 11: Keep Your Eyes on the Prize

11:1 *These are the last times*. From now on let us have **reverence**; let us **stand in awe** of the long-suffering of God, lest it turn into a judgment against us. *For either let us fear the wrath which is to come or let us love the grace which now is – the one or the other; provided only that we be found in Christ Jesus unto true life*. 11:2 Let nothing glitter in your eyes apart from Him, in whom I carry about my bonds, my spiritual pearls in which I would gladly rise again through your prayer, of which may it be my lot to be always a partaker, that I may be found in the company of those Christians of Ephesus who were ever of one mind with the Apostles in the power of Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER 12: Remain in the Company of the Saints

12:1 *I know who I am and to whom I write*. I am a convict, you have received mercy: I am in peril, you are established. 12:2 You are the **highway**⁵ of those who are on their way to die unto God. You are *associates in the mysteries with Paul*, who was sanctified, who obtained a good report, who is worthy of all good wishes; *in whose foot-steps I would be pleased to walk in*, when I shall attain unto God; who *in every letter makes mention of you in Christ Jesus*.

CHAPTER 13: Gather Together Often for Eucharist

13:1 Do your diligence therefore to *meet together more frequently* for **thanksgiving** to God and for His glory. For when you *meet together frequently*, the powers of Satan are cast down; and his mischief comes to nothing *in the unity of your faith*. 13:2 There is nothing better than peace, in which all warfare of things in heaven and things on earth is abolished.

CHAPTER 14: Profess Christ through Perfect Faith and Love

14:1 *None of these things is hidden from you, if you remain perfect in your faith and love toward Jesus Christ*, for these are the beginning and end of life – faith is the beginning and love is the end – and the two being found in unity are God, while all other things follow in their path unto true nobility. 14:2 No man professing faith sins, and no man possessing love hates. “*The tree is manifest from its fruit*,” so they who profess to be Christ's shall be seen through their actions. **For the Work** is not a thing of profession now, but is seen then when one is found in the power of faith unto the end.

CHAPTER 15: Practice What You Preach

15:1 *It is better to keep silence and to be, than to talk and not to be. It is a fine thing to teach, if the speaker practices*. Now there is one teacher, who “**spoke and it came to pass**,” yes and even the things which He has done in silence are worthy of the Father. 15:2 He who truly possesses the word of Jesus is able also to pay attention to His silence, that he may be perfect; that *through his speech he may act and through his silence he may be known*. 15:3 Nothing is hidden from the Lord, but even our secrets are near unto Him. Let us therefore do all things as knowing that He dwells in us, to the *end that we may be His*

¹ 1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing

² Colossians 1:23 Continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven

³ Herb: any plant with leaves, seeds, or flowers used for flavoring, food, medicine, or perfume.

⁴ Temperance: moderation or self-restraint, especially in eating and drinking; abstinence from alcoholic drink

⁵ A great trade route, which conducted most of the trade of the great highway from the East to the Aegean

1 John 2:18
Little children, it is the last hour...

Cyril of Jerusalem, Catechetical Letters, Prologue, 5 d. 386

Ephesus is the highway of martyrs.

ευχαριστια

“The Work”: preaching and practice of Christianity Acts 15:38, John 4:34

See 6:1

The Teacher Creates by What He Says and Does
Psalm 33:9
“For He spoke and it was done.”

temples and He Himself may be in us as our God. This is so, and it will also be made clear in our sight from the love which we rightly bear towards Him.

CHAPTER 16: Wrong Teaching is Destructive

Polluting the heart and body with evil

16:1 Be not deceived, my brethren. *Corrupters of houses* “shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” 16:2 If then they who do these things after the flesh are put to death, how much more if a man through evil himself, shall go into the unquenchable fire; and in like manner also shall he that listens to him.

CHAPTER 17: Christ’s Death Leads to Your Incorruption

17:1 For this cause *the Lord received ointment on His head, that He might breathe incorruption upon the Church*. Be not anointed with the ill odor of the teaching of the prince of this world, lest he lead you captive and rob you of the life which is set before you. 17:2 And as a result, do we not all walk prudently, receiving the knowledge of God, which is Jesus Christ? Why should we perish in our foolishness, not knowing *the gift of grace which the Lord has truly sent?*

Anointing in Bethany in preparation for His death

CHAPTER 18: The Power of the Cross is Given Through Baptism

18:1 My spirit is made an outcast for the Cross, which is *a stumbling-block to them that are unbelievers, but to us salvation and life eternal*. “Where is the wise? Where is the disputer?” Where is the boasting of them who are called prudent? 18:2 **For our God, Jesus the Christ**, was conceived in the womb by Mary according to a dispensation, of the seed of David but also of the Holy Spirit; and *He was born and was baptized that by His passion He might cleanse water*.

1 Cor. 1:23 We preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness.

Baptismal waters are set apart by His Baptism
Cleansing power of Baptism comes from His Cross.

CHAPTER 19: Mysteries are Worked Out in Silence

19:1 And hidden from the prince of this world were *the virginity of Mary, her child-bearing, and likewise the death of the Lord* – three mysteries to be cried aloud – **those which were worked out** in the silence of God. 19:2 How then were they made manifest to the ages? A star shone forth in the heaven **above all the stars**; and its light was unutterable, and its strangeness caused amazement; and all the rest of the constellations with the sun and moon formed themselves into a chorus about the star; but the star itself far outshone them all; and there was perplexity to know from where this strange appearance came, which was so unlike them. 19:3 *From that time forward every sorcery and every spell was dissolved*, the ignorance of wickedness vanished away, the ancient kingdom was pulled down, when God appeared in the likeness of man unto “newness of everlasting life;” and that which had been perfected in the counsels of God began to take effect. As a result, all things were disrupted, as the abolishing of death was taken in hand.

implies being beaten out or shaped by hammering

CHAPTER 20: Unity in Christ with the Church Around the Eucharist will Lead to Life

20:1 If Jesus Christ should count me worthy through your prayer, and it should be the Divine will, in my *second tract, which I intend to write to you*, I will further set before you the dispensation of which I have begun to speak, relating to the new man Jesus Christ, which consists in faith towards Him and in love towards Him, in His passion and resurrection, 20:2 especially if the Lord should reveal anything at all to me. Assemble yourselves together in common, *each and every one of you, one-by-one, in grace, in one faith and one Jesus Christ*, who after the flesh was of David’s race, who is Son of Man and Son of God, to the end that you may obey the bishop and priests without distraction of mind; *breaking one bread, which is the medicine of immortality and the antidote that we should not die but live forever in Jesus Christ*.

CHAPTER 21: Are You Prepared to Sacrifice for Another? Unity Depends On It

21:1 **I am devoted to you** and to those whom for the honor of God you sent to Smyrna; from where I write to you with thanksgiving to the Lord, having *love for Polycarp* as I have for you also. Remember me, even as I would that Jesus Christ may also remember you. 21:2 Pray for the church which is in Syria, from where I am led a prisoner to Rome – I who am the very last of the faithful there; according as I was counted worthy to be found unto the honor of God. Wish you well in God the Father and in Jesus Christ our common hope.

Discussion Questions:

What do you and others need to sacrifice for the sake of your Christian walk? Maintaining unity in the Church? According to Ignatius, where do we find the power of Christ to live this way?

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