

Προς Πολυκαρπον Ἰγνάτιος

Unto Polycarp Ignatius

Ἰγνάτιος, ὁ καὶ Θεοφόρος, Πολυκάρπῳ ἐπισκόπῳ Ἐκκλησίας Συμυρναίων, μᾶλλον
Ignatius, he also Theophorus, to Polycarp overseer of Church of Syria, rather
ἐπισκοπημένῳ ὑπὸ Θεοῦ Πατρὸς καὶ Κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, πλεῖστα χαίρειν.
overseer by God Father and Lord Jesus Christ, greatest to greet.

1

Ἀποδεχόμενός σου τὴν ἐν Θεῷ γνώμην ἠδρασμένην ὡς ἐπὶ πέτραν ἀκίνητον,
Welcoming of you the in God minded grounded as upon a rock immovable,
ὑπερδοξάζω, καταξιωθεὶς τοῦ προσώπου σου τοῦ ἀμώμου, οὗ
I glory exceedingly, having been deemed worthy of the face of you of the blameless, in which
ὄναίμην ἐν Θεῷ. Παρακαλῶ σὲ ἐν χάριτι ἣ ἐνδέδυσαι, προσθεῖναι
would have pleasure in God. I exhort you in grace in which you have been clothed, to go on
τῷ δρόμῳ σου καὶ πάντας παρακαλεῖν, ἵνα σώζωνται. Ἐκδίκει σου τὸν τόπον ἐν πάσῃ
in the course of you and all to summon, that they may be saved. Let you vindicate the office in all
ἐπιμελείᾳ σαρκικῇ τε καὶ πνευματικῇ· τῆς ἐνώσεως φρόντιζε, ἥς οὐδὲν ἄμεινον. Πάντας
diligence in flesh both and in spirit; of the unity let you care, than which nothing better. All
βάσταζε, ὡς καὶ σὲ ὁ Κύριος· πάντων ἀνέχου ἐν ἀγάπῃ, ὡσπερ καὶ ποιεῖς. Προσευχαῖς
let you bear, as also you the Lord; of all let you hold in love, just as also you do. In prayer
σχόλαζε ἀδιαλείπτως· αἰτοῦ σύνεσιν πλείονα ἣς ἔχεις· γρηγόρει
let you be diligent without ceasing; let you request wisdom greater than you have; be watchful
ἀκοίμητον πνεῦμα κекτημένος. Τοῖς κατ' ἄνδρα κατὰ ὁμοίθειαν Θεοῦ λάλει·
a sleepless spirit having kept yourself. To the each man according to individuality of God speak;
πάντων τὰς νόσους βάσταζε ὡς τέλειος ἀθλητῆς. Ὅπου πλείων κόπος, πολὺ κέρδος.
of all the distresses let you bear as a trained athlete. Where more toil, much gain.

2

Καλοὺς μαθητὰς εἶναι φιλῆς, χάρις σοὶ οὐκ ἔστιν· μᾶλλον τοὺς λοιμοτέρους ἐν πραότητι
Good disciples if you should love, credit to you not it is; rather the more troublesome by mildness
ὑπότασσε. Οὐ πᾶν τραῦμα τῇ αὐτῇ ἐμπλάστρω θεραπεύεται. Τοὺς παροξυσμοὺς
bring to subjection. Not all wounds by the same plaster is healed. The paroxysms
ἐμβροχαῖς παῦε. Φρόνιμος γίνου ὡς ὁ ὄφιν ἐν ἅπασιν καὶ ἀκέραιος εἰς
by embrocations let you stop. Prudent let you become as the serpent in all things and pure for
ἀεὶ ὡς ἡ περιστέρα. Διὰ τοῦτο σαρκικός εἶ καὶ πνευματικός, ἵνα τὰ φαινόμενά σου εἰς
ever as the dove. Through this flesh you are and spirit, that the things explaining of you in
πρόσωπον κολακεύης· τὰ δὲ ἀόρατα αἶτει ἵνα σοὶ φανερωθῇ,
face of tenderness; the things but invisible let you ask that to you should be made manifest,
ὅπως μηδενὸς λείπη καὶ παντὸς χαρίσματος περισσεύης. Ὁ καιρὸς ἀπαιτεῖ σὲ, ὡς
that nothing you be wanting and every gift be plentiful. The time requires you, as
κυβερνῆται ἀνέμους καὶ ὡς χειμαζόμενος λιμένα, εἰς τὸ Θεοῦ ἐπιτυχεῖν.
a steersman wind and as one by storm tossed a harbour, to the God to attain.

Epistle of Ignatius to Polycarp, Interlinear English - G.T. Emery.

Νῆφε, ὡς Θεοῦ ἀθλητῆς· τὸ θέμα ἀφθαρσία καὶ ζωὴ αἰώνιος, περὶ ἧς
Let you be self controlled, as of God an athlete; the prize immortality and life eternal, about which
καὶ σὺ πέπεισαι. Κατὰ πάντα σου ἀντίψυχον ἐγὼ καὶ τὰ δεσμά μου, ἃ
also you have been persuaded. In all things of you devoted I and the chains of me, which
ἠγάπησας.
you loved.

3

Οἱ δοκοῦντες ἀξιόπιστοι εἶναι καὶ ἕτεροδιδασκαλοῦντες μὴ σὲ καταπλησέτωσαν.
The appearing plausible to be and teach strange doctrine not you push over.
Στῆθι ἐδραῖος ὡς ἄκμων τυπτόμενος. Μεγάλου ἐστὶν ἀθλητοῦ τὸ δέρεσθαι καὶ
Let you stand firm as anvil being struck. Of great it is athletes the to be flayed and
νικᾶν. Μάλιστα δὲ ἔνεκεν Θεοῦ πάντα ὑπομένειν ἡμᾶς δεῖ, ἵνα καὶ αὐτὸς ἡμᾶς
to conquer. Especially but for sake of God all things to endure us it behoves, that also He us
ὑπομείνῃ. Πλέον σπουδαῖος γίνου οὐ εἶ. Τοὺς καιροὺς καταμάνθανε. Τὸν ὑπὲρ
may endure. More diligently let you be than you are. The seasons let you mark. The One above
καιρὸν προσδόκα, τὸν ἄχρονον, τὸν ἀόρατον, τὸν δι' ἡμᾶς ὀρατόν, τὸν
seasons let you wait for, the One eternal, the One invisible, the One for us became visible, the One
ἀψηλάφητον, τὸν ἀπαθῆ, τὸν δι' ἡμᾶς παθητόν, τὸν
the One impalpable, the One free from suffering, the One for us has suffered, the One
κατὰ πάντα τρόπον δι' ἡμᾶς ὑπομείναντα.
in every way for us endured.

4

Χῆραι μὴ ἀμελείσθωσαν· μετὰ τὸν Κύριον σὺ αὐτῶν φροντιστῆς ἔσο. Μηδὲν ἄνευ γνώμης
Widows not let be neglected, after the Lord you of them carer let you be. Nothing without approval
σου γινέσθω μηδὲν σὺ ἄνευ Θεοῦ τι πράσσει, ὅπερ οὐδὲ πράσσεις·
of you let be done nothing you without of God anything let you do, like as neither you do;
εὐστάθει. Πυκνότερον συναγωγὰι γινέσθωσαν· ἐξ ὀνόματος πάντας ζήτει.
let you be steadfast. More frequent assemblies let them be; by name all let you seek out.
Δούλους καὶ δούλας μὴ ὑπερηφάνει· ἀλλὰ μηδὲ αὐτοὶ φυσιοῦσθωσαν, ἀλλ' εἰς δόξαν
Bondsmen and female slaves not despise; but neither these be puffed up, but to glory
Θεοῦ πλέον δουλευέτωσαν, ἵνα κρείττονος ἐλευθερίας ἀπὸ Θεοῦ τύχωσιν.
of God more let them serve, that a better liberty from of God they may obtain.
Μὴ ἐράτωσαν ἀπὸ τοῦ κοινοῦ ἐλευθεροῦσθαι, ἵνα μὴ δούλοι εὐρεθῶσιν
Not let them ask from of the public purse to be freed, that not slaves they should be found
ἐπιθυμίας.
of lust.

5

Τὰς κακοτεχνίας φεῦγε, μᾶλλον δὲ περὶ τούτων ὀμιλίαν ποιοῦ. Ταῖς ἀδελφαῖς μου
The malpractices let you flee, rather but about of them lecture let you make. The sisters of me
προσλάλει, ἀγαπᾶν τὸν Κύριον καὶ τοῖς συμβίοις ἀρκεῖσθαι σαρκὶ καὶ πνεύματι.
let you tell, love the Lord and the symbiosis be satisfied with in flesh and in spirit.
Ὅμοίως καὶ τοῖς ἀδελφοῖς μου παράγγελλε ἐν ὀνόματι Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἀγαπᾶν τὰς
Likewise also to the brothers of me I instruct in name of Jesus Christ, love the

2

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συμβίους ὡς ὁ Κύριος τὴν Ἐκκλησίαν. Εἴ τις δύναται ἐν ἀγνείᾳ μένειν εἰς τιμὴν τῆς symbioses as the Lord the Church. If anyone is able in purity to remain in honour of the σαρκὸς τοῦ Κυρίου, ἐν ἀκαυχησίᾳ μενέτω. Ἐὰν καυχῆσθαι, ἀπώλετο, καὶ ἐὰν flesh of the Lord, by not boasting let him remain. If he should boast, he is lost, and if γνωσθῆ πλεον τοῦ ἐπισκόπου, ἐφθάρται. Πρέπει δὲ τοῖς γαμοῦσι καὶ it should be known by more than of the overseer, he is polluted. It is proper but to the groom and ταῖς γαμουμέναις μετὰ γνώμης τοῦ ἐπισκόπου τὴν ἔνωσιν ποιῆσθαι, ἵνα ὁ γάμος ἢ the bride with consent of the overseer the union to make, that the marriage may be κατὰ Κύριον καὶ μὴ κατ' ἐπιθυμίαν. Πάντα εἰς τιμὴν Θεοῦ γινέσθω. according to Lord and not according to lust. Let all things for honour of God let it be.

6

Τῷ ἐπισκόπῳ προσέχετε, ἵνα καὶ ὁ Θεὸς ὑμῖν. Ἀντίψυχον ἐγὼ τῶν ὑποτασσομένων τῷ To the overseer let you heed, that also the God you. Devoted I to the being obedient to the ἐπισκόπῳ, πρεσβυτέροις, διακόνους· καὶ μετ' αὐτῶν μοι τὸ μέρος γένοιτο σχεῖν ἐν Θεῷ. overseer, presbyters, ministrants; and with of them to me the portion may be to have in God. Συγκοπιᾶτε, ἀλλήλοις, συναθλεῖτε, συντρέχετε, συμπάσχετε, συγκοιμᾶσθε, Let us toil together, with one another, struggle together, run together, suffer together, rest together, συνεγείρεσθε ὡς Θεοῦ οἰκονόμοι καὶ πάρεδροι καὶ ὑπηρέται. Ἀρέσκετε ᾧ στρατεύεσθε, rise up together as of God stewards and assessors and attendants. be pleasing to whom you serve, ἀφ' οὗ καὶ τὰ ὄψωνια κομίζεσθε· μὴ τις ὑμῶν δεσέρτωρ εὐρεθῆ. Τὸ βάπτισμα ὑμῶν from whom also the pay you receive; not any of you a deserter be found. The baptism of you μενέτω ὡς ὄπλα, ἡ πίστις ὡς περικεφαλαία, ἡ ἀγάπη ὡς δόρυ, ἡ ὑπομονὴ ὡς πανοπλία. remain as armour, the faith as helmet, the love as a spear, the patience as complete armour. Τὰ δεπόσιτα ὑμῶν τὰ ἔργα ὑμῶν, ἵνα τὰ ἄκεπτα ὑμῶν ἄξια κομίσθητε. The the deposits of you the works of you, that the dues of you assets you may receive. Μακροθυμήσατε οὖν μετ' ἀλλήλων ἐν πραότητι, ὡς ὁ Θεὸς μεθ' ὑμῶν. Let you be long-suffering then with one another in gentleness, as the God with of you. Ὅναίμην ὑμῶν διὰ παντός. May I have joy of you always.

7

Ἐπειδὴ ἡ Ἐκκλησία ἢ ἐν Ἀντιοχείᾳ τῆς Συρίας εἰρηνεύει, ὡς ἐδηλώθη μοι, διὰ τὴν Since the Church the in Antioch of the Syria has peace, as was made known to me, through the προσευχὴν ὑμῶν, καὶ γὰρ εὐθυμότερος ἐγενόμην ἐν ἀμεριμνίᾳ Θεοῦ, ἐάνπερ διὰ prayers of you, also I more cheerful became by freedom from care by God, if through τοῦ παθεῖν Θεοῦ ἐπιτύχω, εἰς τὸ εὐρεθῆναί με ἐν τῇ ἀναστάσει ὑμῶν μαθητὴν. of the to suffer of God I may attain, for the to be found me in the resurrection of you disciple. Πρέπει, Πολύκαρπε θεομακαριστότατε, συμβούλιον ἀγαγεῖν θεοπρεπέστατον καὶ Proper, O Polycarp most blessed of God, a council to bring together godly and χειροτονησαί τινα, ὃν ἀγαπητὸν λίαν ἔχετε καὶ ἄοκνον, ὃς δυνήσεται to appoint someone, who is dear exceedingly you have and untiring, who may be strong enough θεοδρόμος καλεῖσθαι· τοῦτον καταξιῶσαι, ἵνα πορευθεὶς εἰς Συρίαν δοξάσῃ God's courier to be called; this one let you appoint, that he may go into Syria he should glorify ὑμῶν τὴν ἄοκνον ἀγάπην εἰς δόξαν Θεοῦ· Χριστιανὸς ἑαυτοῦ ἐξουσίαν οὐκ ἔχει, of you the zealous love to glory of God; A Christian of himself authority not he has,

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ἀλλὰ Θεῷ σχολάζει. Τοῦτο τὸ ἔργον Θεοῦ ἐστὶν καὶ ὑμῶν, ὅταν αὐτὸ ἀπαρτίσητε.
but to God gives time. This the work of God it is and of you, when it you should complete.
Πιστεύω γὰρ τῇ χάριτι, ὅτι ἔτοιμοί ἐστε εἰς εὐποιίαν Θεῷ ἀνήκουσαν. Εἰδὼς
I believe for in the Grace, that ready you are for good deeds for God being proper. Having known
ὑμῶν τὸ σύντονον τῆς ἀληθείας, δι' ὀλίγων ὑμᾶς γραμμάτων παρεκάλεσα.
of you the intensity of the truth, by a little to you letter I exhort.

8

Ἐπεὶ πάσαις ταῖς Ἐκκλησίαις οὐκ ἠδυνήθην γράψαι διὰ τὸ ἐξαίφνης πλεῖν με ἀπὸ
Since to all the Churches not I am able to write because the suddenly to sail me from
Τρωάδος εἰς Νεάπολιν, ὡς τὸ Θέλημα προστάσσει, γράψεις ταῖς ἔμπροσθεν Ἐκκλησίαις,
Troas to Neapolis, as the Will prescribes, you shall write to the in front Churches,
ὡς Θεοῦ γνώμην κεκτημένος, εἰς τὸ καὶ αὐτούς τὸ αὐτὸ ποιῆσαι, (οἱ μὲν δυνάμενοι
as of God mind having acquired, for the also them the same to do, (the indeed being able
πεζοὺς πέμψαι, οἱ δὲ ἐπιστολὰς διὰ τῶν ὑπὸ σου πεμπομένων, ἵνα
walking let you send, the and letters by of the from of you being despatched, that
δοξασθῆτε αἰωνίῳ ἔργῳ,) ὡς ἄξιός ὢν.
may be glorified lasting for an age work,) as worthy being.

Ἀσπάζομαι πάντας ἐξ ὀνόματος καὶ τὴν τοῦ Ἐπιτρόπου σὺν ὄλῳ τῷ οἴκῳ αὐτῆς
I greet you all by name and the of the Epitropus with all the house of her
καὶ τῶν τέκνων. Ἀσπάζομαι Ἀτταλον τὸν ἀγαπητόν μου. Ἀσπάζομαι τὸν μέλλοντα
and of the children. I greet Attalus the beloved of me. I greet the one being about
καταξιοῦσθαι τοῦ εἰς Συρίαν πορπορεύεσθαι· ἔσται ἡ χάρις μετ' αὐτοῦ διὰ παντός καὶ
to be appointed of the into Syria to go; shall be the grace woth of him always and
τοῦ πέμποντος αὐτὸν Πολυκάρπου. Ἐρῶσθαι ὑμᾶς διὰ παντός ἐν Θεῷ ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ
of the having sent him Polycarp. I bid farewell to you always in God of us Jesus
Χριστῷ εὐχόμεαι, ἐν ᾧ διαμείνητε ἐν ἐνότητι Θεοῦ καὶ ἐπισκοπῇ. Ἀσπάζομαι Ἄλκην, τὸ
Christ I pray, in whom let you abide in unity of God and supervision. I greet Alce, the
ποθητόν μοι ὄνομα. Ἐρῶσθε ἐν Κυρίῳ.
very dear to me name. Farewell in Lord.