



**St. Ignatius
of Antioch**

35 – 110 (?)

St. Ignatius of Antioch

OUTLINE

1. Life
 2. Letters
 3. Teaching
 4. For our time?
- Discussion



St. Ignatius of Antioch Life



- Birth date around 35 AD
- Early life and path to episcopacy unknown
- "Theophoros" (God-bearer)
- Contemporaneous with apostles Paul and John
- Possibly a disciple of John, with Polycarp
- 3rd Bishop of Antioch (Syria)
- Martyred in Rome under emperor Trajan (98-117) Possibly 107 / 117

St. Ignatius of Antioch Historical Context

Bishops of Rome

- Peter (33-67)
- Linus (67-79)
- Anacletus (79-88)
- Clement (88-97)
- Evaristus (97-108)
- Alexander (108-118)

Bishops of Antioch

- Peter (37/47-53/54)
- Evrodios (53/54-68/83)
- Ignatius (68-107 or 83-115)
- Heron I (107/116 - 127/128)

St. Ignatius of Antioch

Road to Martyrdom



- Stories of martyrdom not considered historically accurate
- Accused either in 107 AD; or when Trajan wintered in Antioch (115/116) (9th/19th year of reign)
- Sent under guard to Rome for execution by wild beasts
- In Smyrna, met representatives of churches and wrote 4 letters
- In Troas wrote 3 letters
- Completed trip and was martyred December 20 in Rome



St. Ignatius of Antioch Letters

- 15 attributed letters
- 7 letters, shorter (middle) form considered authentic.
 - Letter to the Ephesians
 - Letter to the Magnesians
 - Letter to the Trallians
 - Letter to the Romans
 - Letter to the Philadelphians
 - Letter to the Smyrnaens
 - Letter to Polycarp
- Longer forms include 4th century interpolations
- Abridged versions in Syriac



St. Ignatius of Antioch

Inauthentic Letters

4th century:

- Letter to the Tarsians
- Letter to the Antiochenes
- Letter to the Philippians
- Letter to Hero, deacon of Antioch
- Letter from Mary of Cassobola/ Ignatius' reply

Middle Ages (in Latin only)

- 2 Letters to John
- Letter to Mary

Acts of Ignatius' martyrdom
(5th/6th century)



St. Ignatius of Antioch Letters

Character of the letters:

- Quickly written, stress
- Popular, exhortative
- Creative changing metaphors
- Reveal his personality-
spiritually gifted,
fighting his pride and
spiritual battles



St. Ignatius of Antioch Letters/Teaching

Scriptural influences:
John, Paul, Matthew, Old
testament (Septuagint)

Topics: Three main
concerns

- Unity in the church
- Alerting to heresies
- Impending martyrdom



St. Ignatius of Antioch Letters/Teaching

Unity in the church

- Role of the bishop (administrative, liturgical, prophetic)
- Bishop represents God, presbyters the apostles, deacons Christ.
- Eucharistic gathering
- Mutual support among churches



St. Ignatius of Antioch Letters/Teaching

Concern about heresies

Judaizing (Philadelphia)

- Impacts eucharist
- Denies Christ is God
(response: emphasizes
divinity of Christ)

Docetism (Smyrna)

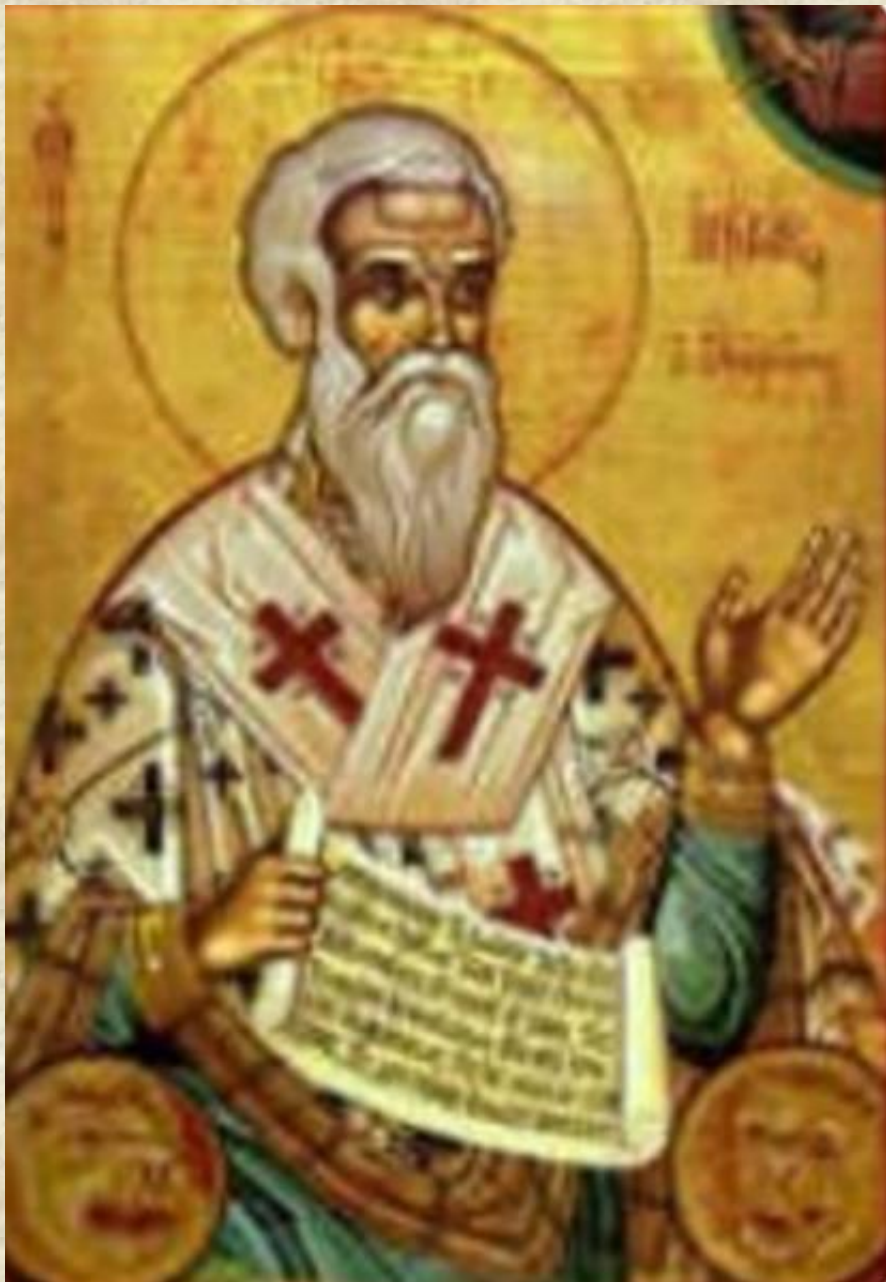
- Denies Christ is man
(response: emphasizes
incarnation, passion,
death, resurrection)



St. Ignatius of Antioch Letters/Teaching

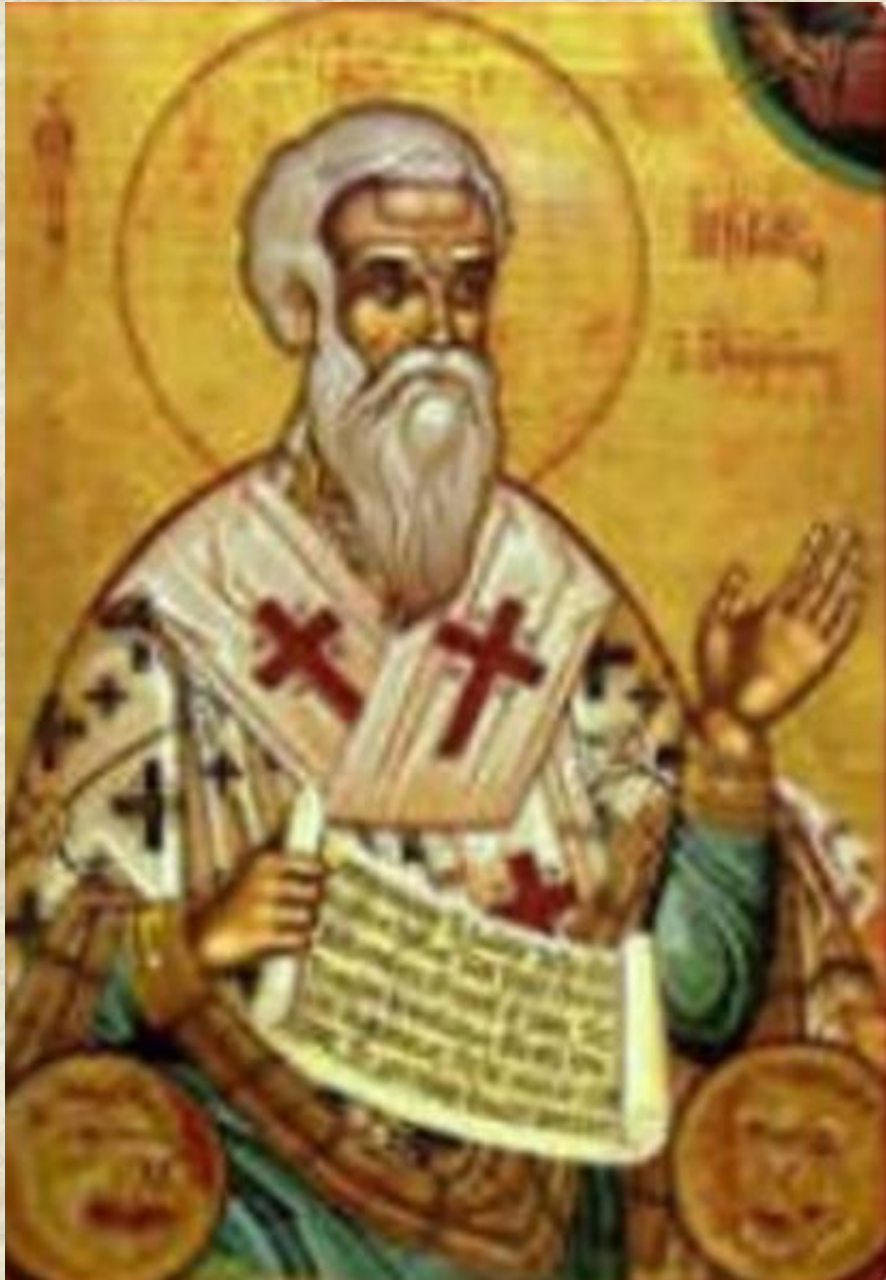
Impending martyrdom:

- His motivation to be a true disciple of Christ and be united with him
- Human suffering given meaning by Incarnation
- Concern about his strength and people's reactions
- Concern for his church



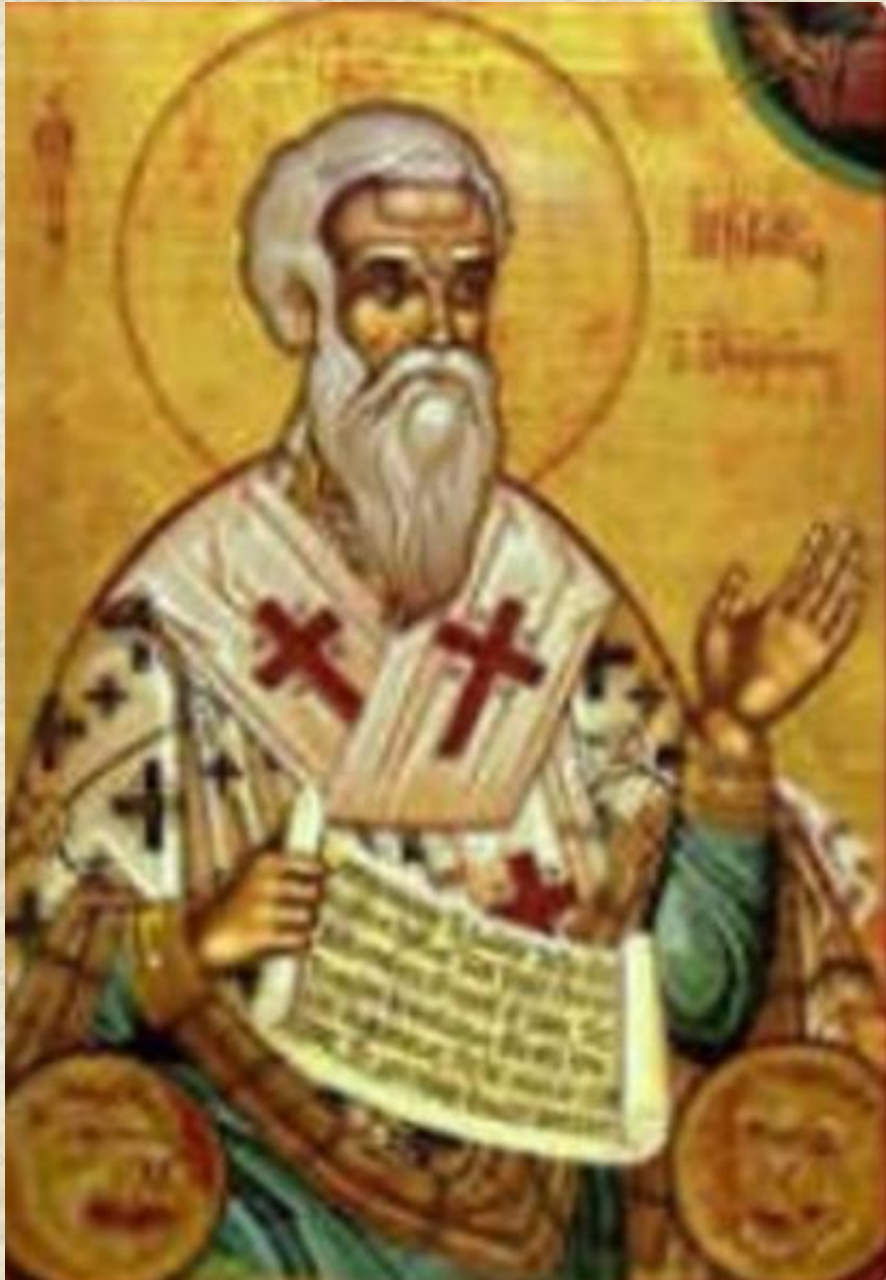
St. Ignatius of Antioch

*Letter to the
Philadelphians*



St. Ignatius of Antioch

*Letter to the
Smyrnaeans*



St. Ignatius of Antioch

*Letter to
Polycarp*



St. Ignatius of Antioch

Letter to Polycarp: Bishop to bishop

1. Find time to pray without ceasing
2. Every wound is not healed with the same remedy
3. The times demand thee, as pilots the haven
4. The crown is immortality
5. Stand like a beaten anvil
6. It is the part of a good athlete to be bruised and to prevail
7. Consider the times: look for Him who is above time
8. Slight not the menservants and the handmaids
9. Let your stewardship define your work
10. A Christian is not his own master, but waits upon God.



St. Ignatius of Antioch

*Letter to the
Romans*



St. Ignatius of Antioch

Discussion

*Insights for
our time?*