

The Didache – The Teaching of the Apostles

I. The Didache (50-120 A.D.) – Teaching of the Apostles

A. The Two Ways – The Way of Life and The Way of Death

1. The Way of Life

- a. Love the Lord God and thy neighbor as thyself
- b. Love your enemies
- c. Follow the commandments, obedience to masters
- d. Confession of sins

1. The Way of Death

- a. Sin, vice, corruption

B. The Rite of Baptism

1. Recite the foregoing things (creeds)
2. Baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
3. Fast – refrain from food, pleasure

C. The Eucharistic Rite

1. Only the Baptized may partake of the Eucharist
2. Gather on the Lord's Day for the breaking of the bread

D. Beware false prophets

E. Appoint bishops and deacons worthy of the Lord

τοῦτον ἀποστόλῃς ὁ θεὸς ὁμοῦ μετὰ τοῦ πνεύματος ἁγίου
καὶ διὰ τῆς ἐκκλησίας ὁμοῦ μετὰ τοῦ πνεύματος ἁγίου
οὗτος πρὸς τὴν ἐκκλησίαν ἡμετέραν ἀποστόλῃς ὁμοῦ μετὰ τοῦ πνεύματος ἁγίου
τὸν πρὸς τὸν κύριον καὶ τὸν πλησίον ὡς σεαυτὸν· ὅτι ὁ θεὸς οὕτως ἐστὶν
ἐν ὑμῖν ὡς ἐν ἑαυτῷ·

Ἐπεὶ οὖν ὁ κύριος ἡμεῶν ἔσται μετὰ ὑμῶν ὡς ἐν ἑαυτῷ·

ὡς οὖν ὁ κύριος ἡμεῶν ὁμοῦ μετὰ τοῦ πνεύματος ἁγίου
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The Apostolic Tradition

I. Laying of hands – successors of the Apostles, Apostolic succession

A. Importance of truth and consistency

1. First-hand account of those who knew Jesus

II. Polycarp and Ignatius taught by the Apostle John

A. Creeds – Confessions of Faith

1. 160-170's – Apostle's Creed

2. Preserve unity, guard against heresy



Persecution under the Romans

I. Christians refuse to attend Roman religious festivals

II. Christians accused of lacking patriotism, not following the *Mos Maiorum* (Roman customs and mores)

A. Celsus, a Platonist, who argues that Greek and Roman traditions must be preserved for the sake of the Empire

1. *Mos Maiorum*

III. Christians accused of cannibalism

A. Rumors of the Eucharist

IV. Persecutions begin locally, dependent upon the magistrate



The Early Christian Martyrs

I. 64 A.D. - Peter crucified in Rome

II. 64 A.D. - Paul beheaded in Rome

III. 155 A.D. Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, burned and stabbed

A. Martyrdom of Polycarp - "Four score and six years I have been His servant and He has done me no wrong. How then can I blaspheme my King who has saved me?"

IV. Justin would die for anything but the truth

C. Justin finds Christ of Neapolis (100-165 A.D.)

A. Christian convert and early martyr

B. Justin asks why the Christians in the Old Testament and sees Greek philosophy as a precursor to Christianity

1. Given what it gets right, Greek philosophy prepares the way for Christian faith

V. 203 B.C. - Perpetua (noble-born Roman woman)

A. Receives a dream concerning her forthcoming passion



Teachings of the Apostles

05/01

1. The Didache (50-120A.D.) Teachings of the Apostles
 - a. 2 Ways of Life (Life and Death)
 - i. Way of Life
 1. Love the Lord God and they neighbor as thyself
 2. Love your enemies
 3. Follow the commandments
 4. Confess your sins
 - ii. Way of Death
 1. Sin, vice, corruption

b.

Teachings of the Apostles

05/01

1. ...
 - a. ...
 - b. Rite of Baptism
 - i. Baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
 - ii. Fast-refrain from food/pleasure
 - iii. Recite the creed (confession of Faith)
 - c. Eucharistic Rite
 - i. Only the baptized can partake in the Eucharist
 - ii. Gather on the Lord's Day
 - iii. Beware false prophets

Teachings of the Apostles

05/01

1. ...
2. Apostolic Tradition
 - a. Laying of hands-successors of the Apostles/Apostolic Succession
 - i. Importance of truth and consistency
 - ii. 1st hand account of those who knew Jesus
 - b. Polycarp and Ignatius taught by the Apostle John
 - c. Apostles Creed, 160-170 AD
 - d. Preserve unity, guard against heresy

Teachings of the Apostles

05/01

1. ...
2. ...
3. Persecution
 - a. Christians refuse to attend Roman religious festivals
 - i. Accused of lacking patriotism, not following Mos Maiorum (Roman customs/norms)
 1. Christians are accused of cannibalism because of the Eucharist
 2. Celsus -> Platonist who argued the traditions must be preserved for sake of the empire

Teachings of the Apostles

05/01

4. Early Christian Martyrs
 - a. 64 A.D. Peter is crucified in Rome
 - b. 64 A.D. Paul is beheaded in Rome
 - c. 155 A.D. Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna is burned and stabbed for refusing to blaspheme his king (Jesus)
 - d. Justin of Neapolis is beheaded, leading platonist that argued Greek Philosophy prepared the way for Christian faith
 - e. Perpetua (noble Roman woman) killed by a gladiator in 203 B.C.