

# Be Subject to the Bishop

by Ignatius of Antioch

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*Ignatius emphasizes the importance of submission to the bishop and other church leaders, highlighting their roles and responsibilities in guiding the church.*

**Scripture:** Romans 6:3, Ephesians 5:22, 1 Timothy 3:8, 1 Peter 5:5

**Topics:** "Church Governance", "Christian Obedience"

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## Description

Ignatius of Antioch emphasizes the importance of being subject to the bishop and living according to Jesus Christ, who died for believers to be partakers of His resurrection through baptism. He urges the congregation to do everything under the guidance of the bishop and to submit to the presbytery as representatives of Jesus Christ. Ignatius also highlights the role of deacons as ministers of the mysteries of Christ, emphasizing their responsibility to serve the Church of God and avoid any accusations against them.

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## Transcript

Be ye subject to the bishop as to the Lord, for "he watches for your souls, as one that shall give account to God." Wherefore also, ye appear to me to live not after the manner of men, but according to Jesus Christ, who died for us, in order that, by believing in His death, ye may by baptism be made partakers of His resurrection. It is therefore necessary, whatsoever things ye do, to do nothing without the bishop. And be ye subject also to the presbytery, as to the apostles of Jesus Christ, who is our hope, in whom, if we live, we shall be found in Him.

It behoves you also, in every way, to please the deacons, who are [ministers] of the mysteries of Christ Jesus; for they are not ministers of meat and drink, but servants of the Church of God.

They are bound, therefore, to avoid all grounds of accusation [against them], as they would a burning fire. Let them, then, prove themselves to be such.

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