

# I Do Not Issue Orders to You, as if I Were Some Great Person

by Ignatius of Antioch

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*Ignatius encourages the audience to live according to God's will by imitating Jesus Christ and following His example.*

**Scripture:** John 8:29, 1 Corinthians 11:1, Philippians 3:12, 1 Thessalonians 1:3, 1 Peter 4:8

**Topics:** "Christian Humility", "Discipleship"

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## Description

Ignatius of Antioch emphasizes the importance of humility and discipleship, acknowledging his own imperfections and encouraging fellow believers to run together in unity according to God's will. He urges them to imitate Christ and follow the example of Paul in living a life that pleases God, filled with faith, exhortation, patience, and long-suffering, all motivated by love that compels him to speak out for their benefit.

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## Transcript

I do not issue orders to you, as if I were some great person. For though I am bound for His name, I am not yet perfect in Jesus Christ. For now I begin to be a disciple, and I speak to you as my fellow-servants. For it was needful for me to have been admonished by you in faith, exhortation, patience, and long-suffering. But inasmuch as love suffers me not to be silent in regard to you,

I have therefore taken upon me first to exhort you that ye would run together in accordance with the will of God. For even Jesus Christ does all things according to the will of the Father, as He Himself declares in a certain place, "I do always those things that please Him." Wherefore it behoves us also to live according to the will of God in Christ, and to imitate Him as Paul did.

For, says he, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."

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