THE QUESTION

What did the early church say true Christianity is?

Asked by a THF member on July 12, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 12 numbered quotations · the 51 early Christian passages and 264 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-did-the-early-church-say-true-christianity-is

The short answer *Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words*

Early writers described true Christianity as the faith Christ gave the apostles and the churches they founded kept unchanged. It confesses one God the Father, one Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. It lives in one Church, in love and sharing, and it shows itself in a life that matches what a Christian professes.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

IN THIS STUDY

1	It is the faith the apostles handed down	**2**	**6**	Love and sharing mark the believers	**4**
2	It confesses Father, Son and Holy Spirit	**2**	**7**	Christians are like the soul in the world	**5**
3	One God, one Lord, one faith	**3**	**8**	Faith is defended by enduring, not killing	**5**
4	The true Church is one and ancient	**3**		What these passages don't tell us	**5**
5	Be a Christian, not just called one	**4**		The Sources: 51 early Christian passages and 264 Bible verses, with links	**6**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

POINT 1 OF 8

It is the faith the apostles handed down

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Tertullian gives a rule. Teaching is true when it agrees with the churches the apostles founded, because those churches received it from the apostles, who received it from Christ. Irenaeus likewise says true knowledge is the apostles' teaching, kept without additions or cuts.

1 "If these things are so, then it is just as clear that all teaching which agrees with the apostolic churches, those patterns and original sources of the faith, must be regarded as true, since it certainly contains what those churches received from the apostles, the apostles from Christ, and Christ from God."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Prescription Against Heretics* 21 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 23, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

2 "True knowledge is found in the doctrine of the apostles and the ancient structure of the Church throughout the world."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 14, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 8

It confesses Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus sums up the faith the Church everywhere received from the apostles. It is belief in one God the Father, in one Christ Jesus the Son who became flesh for our salvation, and in the Holy Spirit who spoke through the prophets.

3 "She believes in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven, earth, and the sea, and all things within them; and in one Christ Jesus, the Son of God, who became incarnate for our salvation; and in the Holy Spirit"

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book I* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 13, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

POINT 3 OF 8

One God, one Lord, one faith

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Ignatius argues that because there is one God, one Lord Jesus Christ, one Spirit, one baptism and one Church, there should be only one faith in Christ. He quotes Paul's words about one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

4 “For if there is one God of the universe, the Father of Christ, "of whom are all things;" and one Lord Jesus Christ, our Lord, "by whom are all things;" and also one Holy Spirit, who worked in Moses, and in the prophets and apostles; and also one baptism, which is administered so that we should share in the death of the Lord; and also one chosen Church; there should likewise be but one faith in respect to Christ.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistles of Ignatius* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 5, page 6** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 8

The true Church is one and ancient

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Alexandria says the true Church is the ancient one, and it is one because God is one. Clement of Rome asks the divided Corinthians why they tear apart Christ's members when they share one God, one Christ and one Spirit.

5 “From what has been said, then, it is my opinion that the true Church, the one that is truly ancient, is one.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 7.17 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 20, page 7** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

6 “Have we not all one God and one Christ? Is there not one Spirit of grace poured out upon us? And have we not one calling in Christ?”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Source 51, page 9** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

POINT 5 OF 8

Be a Christian, not just called one

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Ignatius prays that he may not only be called a Christian but be found to be one. Elsewhere he urges believers to hold to the faith they received and to make their habits and life match what they profess.

7 “Only pray for strength to be given to me from within and from without, that I may not only speak, but also be willing, and that I may not merely be called a Christian, but also be found to be one; for if I am found to be one, I may then also be called one.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistle to the Romans* 3 (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 7, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

8 “Believe them, cling to them, and hold firmly to the profession of that Christianity which you have embraced, and align your habits and life with your profession.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistles of Ignatius* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 6, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 8

Love and sharing mark the believers

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian looks back to the first believers in Acts, who were of one heart and soul and shared what they had with the poor. Irenaeus adds that love is the greatest gift, more valuable than knowledge.

9 “And the multitude of those who believed acted with one heart and one soul; neither was there any distinction among them, nor did they consider anything their own of the goods that belonged to them, but they had all things in common."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 38, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

10 “Above all, it includes the supreme gift of love, which is more valuable than knowledge, more glorious than prophecy, and surpasses all other gifts of God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 14, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

POINT 7 OF 8

Christians are like the soul in the world

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The letter to Diognetus compares Christians to the soul in a body. They live in every city but are not of the world. They love those who hate them and look for a home in heaven.

11

"To sum up everything in one word—what the soul is in the body, that Christians are in the world."

later in the same passage

"The soul loves the flesh that hates it, and loves the members; Christians likewise love those that hate them."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Mathetes,** *Epistle to Diognetus* (c. 80–200 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 2, page 6 Read it in the library ›

POINT 8 OF 8

Faith is defended by enduring, not killing

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Lactantius says true religion must be defended by patient endurance and even by dying, never by force. He gives the reason that nothing depends so much on free will as religion.

12

"Religion must be defended not by killing, but by dying; not by cruelty, but by patient endurance; not by guilt, but by good faith."

later in the same passage

"For nothing depends so much on free will as religion."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Divine Institutes* 20 (c. 290–320 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 45, page 9 Read it in the library ›

THE LIMITS

What these passages don't tell us

- These passages give a summary, not a full list of everything the early church believed or practiced.
- They say little here about worship, baptism or the Lord's Supper in detail.

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 51 early Christian passages and 264 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–51, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 52–147, in Bible order), then 168 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *51 passages from 20 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 11 (1885 English; on point 1) "concerning the apostles and prophets, according to the decree of the Gospel, thus do… [continues online] **read ›**

Mathetes, *c. 80–200 AD · source 2*

2 *Epistle to Diognetus* (1885 English) **Quote 11, page 5** "sum up all in one word—what the soul is in the body, that are Christians in the world… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome, *c. 88–99 AD · source 3*

3 *Second Epistle* 14 (on point 4) then, brothers, if we do the will of God our Father, we will be members of the first church, the spiritual church, the one that was created before the sun… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · source 4*

4 *Shepherd* (1885 English; on point 6) at peace one with another, and visit each other, and bear each other's burdens, and do not partake of God's creatures alone, but give abundantly of them to… [continues online] **read ›**

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · sources 5–10*

5 *Epistles of Ignatius* **Quote 4, page 3** Mindful of your love and zeal in Christ, which you have shown towards us, we thought it appropriate to write to you, who display such a godly and spiritual love… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Epistles of Ignatius* (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 4** "them, cling to them, and hold fast the profession of that Christianity which thou hast embraced, and conform thy habits and life to thy profession… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Epistle to the Romans* 3 (1885 English) **Quote 7, page 4** "Christianity is great when the world hateth it… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Epistles of Ignatius* (1885 English; on point 1) "that ye give heed to the doctrine of the apostles, and believe both the law and the prophets: that ye reject every Jewish and Gentile error, and neither introduce a… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* (1885 English; on point 3) "ye all come together in common, and individually, through grace, in one faith of God the Father, and of Jesus Christ His only-begotten Son, and "the first-born of… [continues online] **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

10 *Epistle to the Magnesians* (on point 5) “Therefore, having become His disciples, let us learn to live according to the principles of Christianity. For anyone called by any other name besides this is not of God. Lay… [continues online] **read ›**

Polycarp, *c. 100–155 AD · source 11*

11 *Epistle to the Philippians* (on point 1) forsaking the vanity of many and their false doctrines, let us return to the word which has been handed down to us from… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · source 12*

12 *Martyrdom of Justin Martyr* the prefect Rusticus said to Chariton, “Tell me more, Chariton, are you also a Christian?” Chariton replied, “I am a Christian by the command of God.” Rusticus the prefect asked… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 13–17*

13 *Against Heresies: Book I* (1885 English) **Quote 3, page 2** “The Church, though dispersed through our the whole world, even to the ends of the earth, has received from the apostles and their disciples this faith: [She believes] in one… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English) **Quotes 2, 10, pages 2, 4** “True knowledge is [that which consists in] the doctrine of the apostles, and the ancient constitution of the Church throughout all the world, and the distinctive manifestation of the body… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Against Heresies: Book III* (on point 1) “the Scriptures have been interpreted with such faithfulness, by the grace of God, and because of this, God has prepared and renewed our faith in His Son and preserved for… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Against Heresies: Book III* (on point 1) was also appointed by apostles in Asia to be the bishop of the Church in Smyrna. I saw him in my early youth, for he lived a very long time… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (on point 1) it is necessary to obey the presbyters in the Church—those who, as I have shown, possess the succession from the apostles; those who, along with the succession of the… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 18–20*

18 *Stromata* 1.19 (on point 4) “vineyard, and wandered in the tracks of his own husbandry." Such are the sects that deserted the primitive Church. Now he who has fallen into heresy passes through an arid… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Stromata* 7.17 (1885 English; on point 4) “in substance and idea, in origin, in pre-eminence, we say that the ancient and Catholic Church is alone, collecting as it does into the unity of the one faith… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Stromata* 7.17 **Quote 5, page 3** “what has been said, then, it is my opinion that the true… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 21–26*

21 *Apology* 46 (on point 5) by his enemies. The Christian is known for faithfulness even among those who are not of his religion. If sincerity is to be tested, Aristotle shamefully thrust his friend Hermias… [continues online] **read ›**

22 *On Prescription Against Heretics* 20 (on point 1) Therefore, although the churches are so many and so great, they make up only the one primitive church, founded by the apostles, from which they all spring. In this way… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *On Prescription Against Heretics* 21 (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** “then, these things are so, it is in the same degree manifest that all doctrine which agrees with the apostolic churches— those moulds and original sources of the faith must… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *On Prescription Against Heretics* 44 (1885 English; on point 1) “once gave the gospel and the doctrine of the said rule (of life and faith) to my apostles… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *On Prescription Against Heretics* 14 (on point 1) “faith has been deposited in the rule… [continues online] **read ›**

26 *On Prescription Against Heretics* 32 (on point 1) “predecessor was one of the apostles or one of the apostolic men, and moreover, a man who remained faithful with the apostles. For this is how the apostolic churches pass… [continues online] **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

Caius, *c. 200–220 AD · source 27*

27 *Fragments* 1 (on point 1) have boldly falsified the sacred Scriptures, rejected the rules of the ancient faith, and ignored Christ. They do not ask what the sacred Scriptures say. Instead, they work hard to… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 28–29*

28 *Against Celsus* 45 (1885 English) “that the object of Christianity is that we should become wise, can be proved not only from the ancient Jewish writings, which we also use, but especially from those which… [continues online] **read ›**

29 *Against Celsus* 2 study of Greek opinions and customs to the Gospel, he would not only judge that its teachings are true, but would also confirm their truth by practice. He would also… [continues online] **read ›**

Asterius Urbanus, *c. 232–250 AD · source 30*

30 *Extant Writings of Asterius Urbanus* 1 (on point 1) things, and to prophesy in a way contrary to the custom of the Church, as handed down from early times and preserved from there forward in continuous succession. Among those… [continues online] **read ›**

Gregory Thaumaturgus, *c. 240–270 AD · sources 31–36*

31 *On the Trinity* 1 (on point 2) “is the perfect, holy, Apostolic faith of the holy God… [continues online] **read ›**

32 *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 (1885 English; on point 1) “it is right that our conceptions should follow the inspired and apostolic doctrines, and not that our impotent fancies should coerce the articles of our divine faith… [continues online] **read ›**

33 *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 (on point 2) “in one holy Church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of… [continues online] **read ›**

34 *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 (1885 English; on point 2) “who introduce three separate and diverse systems of divine worship, whereas there is but one form of legitimate service which we have received of old from the law and the… [continues online] **read ›**

35 *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 (1885 English; on point 1) “all through the inspired Scriptures numberless announcements are supplied us, all confirmatory of the apostolic and ecclesiastical faith… [continues online] **read ›**

36 *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 (1885 English; on point 2) Paul addresses the Father as one in respect of divinity, and speaks of the Son as one in respect of lordship: There is one God the Father, of whom are… [continues online] **read ›**

Novatian, *c. 240–258 AD · source 37*

37 *Treatise Concerning the Trinity* 8 (on point 2) aside the fables and figments of heretics, the Church knows and worships this God. The universal and complete nature of all things, visible and invisible, bears witness to Him. Angels… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 38–41*

38 *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 4** “Let us consider, beloved brethren, what the congregation of believers did in the time of the apostles, when at the first beginnings the mind flourished with greater virtues, when the… [continues online] **read ›**

39 *Treatises* (on point 6) “the first people of believers kept Christ's commands. They were prompt, they were… [continues online] **read ›**

40 *Treatises* (on point 6) “again: "These all continued with one mind in prayer with the women, and Mary the mother of… [continues online] **read ›**

41 *Epistles* (1885 English; on point 1) “from the beginning that which was delivered by Christ and the apostles… [continues online] **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 42–43*

42 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 1) “this we did in every city, everywhere through the whole world, and have left to you the bishops and to the rest of the priests this very Catholic doctrine worthily… [continues online] **read ›**

43 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 3) one consent teach those that are under you to be of the same sentiments and to be of the same opinions about the same matters, that there may be no… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · sources 44–48*

44 *Divine Institutes* 5 (1885 English) “the sum of all these things is, that he should worship God… [continues online] **read ›**

45 *Divine Institutes* 20 **Quote 12, page 5** sides, or envy us because we have chosen truth over falsehood? But, they say, the public rites of religion must be defended. Oh, with what honorable zeal these miserable men… [continues online] **read ›**

46 *Divine Institutes* 10 the chief good of man is found only in religion. For the other things, even those that are thought to belong especially to man, are also found in the other… [continues online] **read ›**

47 *Divine Institutes* 30 (1885 English; on point 4) “it is the Catholic Church alone which retains true worship… [continues online] **read ›**

48 *Divine Institutes* 30 (1885 English; on point 4) “however, because all the separate assemblies of heretics call themselves Christians in preference to others, and think that theirs is the Catholic Church, it must be known that the true… [continues online] **read ›**

Alexander of Alexandria, *c. 313–328 AD · sources 49–50*

49 *Epistles on the Arian Heresy* 1 (on point 2) We believe these things concerning Him, just as the Apostolic Church believes. We believe in one unbegotten Father, who has from no one the cause of His being. He is… [continues online] **read ›**

50 *Epistles on the Arian Heresy* 1 (on point 1) “not escape your religious diligence. This is how we teach. This is how we preach. These are the apostolic doctrines of the Church, for which we also die. We count… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *source 51*

51 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Quote 6, page 3** “we not all one God and one Christ… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *96 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

52 **Proverbs 5:16** Do not let waters from your spring be spilled over for you, but let your waters go through your streets. **read ›**

53 **Proverbs 14:19** The evil will fall before the good, and the ungodly will wait at the doors of the righteous. **read ›**

54 **Ecclesiastes 2:13** And I saw that wisdom has an advantage over foolishness, as light has an advantage over darkness. **read ›**

55 **Ecclesiastes 6:9** Better is the sight of the eyes than wandering of the soul. This also is vanity and a choosing of the wind. **read ›**

56 **Song of Solomon 2:11** For behold, the winter is past, the rain is over, it has gone its way. **read ›**

57 **Song of Solomon 3:4** Scarcely had I passed from them when I found him whom my soul has loved. I held him and did not let him go, until I brought him into my mother’s house, and into the chamber of her who conceived me. **read ›**

58 **Isaiah 1:12** not even if you come to appear before me; for who has required these things from your hands? You shall no longer tread my court. **read ›**

59 **Isaiah 5:24** Therefore, as stubble shall be burned by a coal of fire and be consumed by a flame let loose, their root shall be like chaff, and their blossom shall go up like dust; for they did not desire the law of the Lord of hosts, but provoked the oracle of the Holy One of Israel. **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

60 **Isaiah 7:16** For before the child knows good or evil, he refuses evil, to choose the good; and the land which you fear shall be forsaken because of the two kings. **read ›**

61 **Isaiah 7:21** And it shall be in that day that a man shall rear a young cow and two sheep; **read ›**

62 **Isaiah 13:13** For the heaven will be enraged, and the earth will be shaken from its foundations, because of the wrath of the anger of the Lord of hosts, in the day when his wrath comes upon it. **read ›**

63 **Isaiah 14:3** And it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord will give you rest from your anguish and your anger, and from your hard slavery, in which you served them. **read ›**

64 **Isaiah 14:7** All the earth cries out with gladness, **read ›**

65 **Isaiah 15:1** The word against the land of Moab. By night the land of Moab will be destroyed, for by night the wall of the land of Moab will be destroyed. **read ›**

66 **Isaiah 15:3** Wrap yourselves in sackcloth in her squares, and lament on her rooftops and in her lanes; all of you, wail with weeping. **read ›**

67 **Isaiah 18:2** which sends hostages by sea, and paper letters on the water; for swift messengers will go to a nation high in the air, and to a foreign and harsh people. Who is beyond it? A nation without hope and trodden down. Now the rivers of the land, **read ›**

68 **Ezekiel 8:5** And he said to me, “Son of man, lift up your eyes toward the north.” And I lifted up my eyes toward the north, and behold, from the north toward the gate facing east. **read ›**

69 **Daniel 11:31** And seeds from him shall arise, and they shall profane the sanctuary of might, and remove the continual offering, and set up an abomination made desolate. **read ›**

70 **Hosea 12:13** And by a prophet the Lord brought Israel up out of the land of Egypt, and by a prophet he was preserved. (Septuagint Hosea 12:14 (Hosea 12:13 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

71 **Amos 3:9** Proclaim it to the regions among the Assyrians, and to the regions of Egypt, and say, “Gather yourselves on the mountain of Samaria, and see the many marvels in her midst, and the oppression that is in her.” **read ›**

72 **1 Esdras 5:40** And Nehemiah and Attharias told them not to share in the holy things until a high priest should arise clothed with the Manifestation and the Truth. **read ›**

73 **1 Esdras 8:94** as has been decided by you and by all who obey the law of the Lord. **read ›**

74 **1 Esdras 9:38** And the whole multitude gathered together in the open square before the gate of the temple toward the east, **read ›**

75 **Tobit 5:19** For the life the Lord has given us to live is enough for us.” **read ›**

76 **Wisdom of Solomon 3:9** Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will stay with him in love, for grace and mercy are for his chosen ones. **read ›**

77 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:9** For the holy children of good men offered sacrifice in secret, and in full agreement they established the divine law, that the holy ones would share alike in the same good things and dangers, the fathers already leading the songs of praise. **read ›**

78 **Wisdom of Sirach 24:33** I will again pour out teaching like prophecy, and leave it to generations of the ages. **read ›**

79 **Wisdom of Sirach 25:1** In three things I was made beautiful, and I stood up in beauty before the Lord and men: harmony among brothers, and friendship among neighbors, and a wife and husband who suit each other. **read ›**

80 **Wisdom of Sirach 35:14** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

81 **Wisdom of Sirach 35:24** He who believes the law pays attention to the commandments, and he who trusts in the Lord will not suffer loss. **read ›**

82 **Baruch 4:1** This is the book of the statutes of God and the law that endures forever. All who hold fast to her will come to life, but those who forsake her will die. **read ›**

83 **1 Maccabees 5:16** When Judas and the people heard these words, a great assembly gathered to decide what they should do for their brothers who were in trouble and were being attacked by them. **read ›**

84 **1 Maccabees 14:19** And these were read before the assembly in Jerusalem. **read ›**

85 **2 Maccabees 2:13** The same things were also reported in the records and in the memoirs of Nehemiah, and how he founded a library and collected the accounts of the kings and prophets, and the writings of David, and letters of kings about dedicated gifts. **read ›**

86 **2 Maccabees 4:9** In addition to this he promised to pay another one hundred and fifty, if permission were given him by the king’s authority to set up a gymnasium and a body of youths for it, and to enroll the people of Jerusalem as citizens of Antioch. **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

87 **2 Maccabees 4:42** As a result they wounded many of them and struck down some, and they put all the rest to flight; and they killed the temple robber himself beside the treasury. **read ›**

88 **2 Maccabees 6:9** and that they should slaughter those who would not choose to change over to Greek ways. So one could see the misery that had come. **read ›**

89 **2 Maccabees 14:38** For in the former times of separation he had been brought to trial for Judaism, and he had risked body and soul for Judaism with all earnestness. **read ›**

90 **3 Maccabees 2:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

91 **3 Maccabees 2:30** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

92 **3 Maccabees 2:32** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

93 **3 Maccabees 3:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

94 **4 Maccabees 1:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

95 **4 Maccabees 5:24** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

96 **4 Maccabees 6:31** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

97 **4 Maccabees 7:16** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

98 **4 Maccabees 7:21** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

99 **4 Maccabees 7:22** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

100 **4 Maccabees 9:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

101 **4 Maccabees 12:14** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

102 **4 Maccabees 13:13** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

103 **4 Maccabees 13:26** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

104 **4 Maccabees 13:27** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

105 **4 Maccabees 14:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

106 **4 Maccabees 14:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

107 **4 Maccabees 15:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

108 **4 Maccabees 15:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

109 **4 Maccabees 15:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

110 **4 Maccabees 16:22** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

111 **4 Maccabees 17:18** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

112 **4 Maccabees 18:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

113 **1 Enoch 15:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

114 **1 Enoch 37:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

115 **1 Enoch 93:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

116 **1 Enoch 99:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

117 **1 Enoch 108:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

118 **Acts 2:42** They continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. **read ›**

119 **Acts 2:44** All who believed were together, and had all things in common. **read ›**

120 **Acts 2:46** Day by day they continued steadfastly with one accord in the temple, breaking bread at home and sharing food with gladness and simplicity of heart, **read ›**

121 **Acts 4:32** The multitude of those who believed were of one heart and soul. No one said that any of his possessions was his own, but they had all things in common. **read ›**

122 **Acts 5:42** Every day, in the temple and at home, they never stopped teaching and preaching the gospel of Jesus the Christ. **read ›**

123 **Acts 9:31** So the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were built up. Walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they multiplied. **read ›**

124 **Acts 10:36** The word he sent to the children of Israel, preaching the gospel of peace through Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all— **read ›**

125 **Acts 11:26** When he found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they gathered with the church and taught a considerable multitude. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

126 **Romans 12:5** so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. **read ›**

127 **Romans 16:5** Greet the church that is in their house. Greet Epaenetus, my beloved, who is the first fruits of Achaia to Christ. **read ›**

128 **1 Corinthians 4:1** Let a man regard us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. **read ›**

129 **1 Corinthians 7:17** Only, as God has apportioned to each, as the Lord has called each, so let him walk. And so I direct in all the churches. **read ›**

130 **1 Corinthians 8:6** yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we for him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and we through him. **read ›**

131 **1 Corinthians 12:13** For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all given drink to share in one Spirit. **read ›**

132 **Galatians 3:26** For you are all children of God, through faith in Christ Jesus. **read ›**

133 **Galatians 3:27** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **read ›**

134 **Ephesians 1:10** for an administration when the times reach their fullness, to sum up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth— **read ›**

135 **Ephesians 4:4** There is one body and one Spirit, even as you also were called in one hope of your calling, **read ›**

136 **Ephesians 4:5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **read ›**

137 **Ephesians 4:13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, **read ›**

138 **Colossians 3:11** Here there is no Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, or free person; but Christ is all and in all. **read ›**

139 **2 Thessalonians 2:15** So then, brothers, stand firm and hold the traditions which you were taught by us, whether by word or by letter. **read ›**

140 **1 Timothy 2:7** for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie—a teacher of the Gentiles in faithfulness and truth. **read ›**

141 **1 Timothy 3:15** but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct oneself in God's house, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. **read ›**

142 **2 Timothy 1:13** Hold to the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faithfulness and love in Christ Jesus. **read ›**

143 **Titus 1:9** holding firmly to the trustworthy word that accords with the teaching, so that he may both exhort by sound doctrine and rebuke those who contradict it. **read ›**

144 **1 Peter 2:5** you also as living stones are built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **read ›**

145 **2 John 1:9** Everyone who transgresses and does not remain in the teaching of Christ does not have God. He who remains in the teaching of Christ has both the Father and the Son. **read ›**

146 **Jude 1:3** Beloved, while making every effort to write to you about the common salvation, I found it necessary to write and urge you to contend earnestly for the faith delivered once for all to the saints. **read ›**

147 **Jude 1:17** But you, beloved, remember the words which have been spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *168 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 1:6 · 2:7 · 11:4 · 12:7 · 32:28 · 49:11

Exodus 7:1

Deuteronomy 32:8

1 Kings 4:29

2 Kings 19:20

Psalms 19:5 · 62:6 · 136:12

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

Proverbs 11:25 · 30:24

Isaiah 9:6 · 11:2 · 11:6 · 38:8 · 45:7

Jeremiah 17:7 · 23:21

Ezekiel 1:15

Daniel 1:12 · 2:2 · 2:45 · 2:48 · 3:27

Hosea 1:7 · 8:6

Joel 2:28

Amos 4:11

Habakkuk 3:3

Malachi 3:6

Matthew 2:20 · 3:17 · 6:13 · 6:14 · 10:29 · 10:40 · 11:27 · 12:31 · 12:32 · 15:14 · 18:6 · 20:20 · 23:6 · 24:12 · 24:24 · 24:27 · 25:31 · 26:24 · 26:41 · 28:19

Mark 2:28 · 3:29 · 4:34 · 9:42 · 12:39 · 14:38 · 16:15 · 16:19

Luke 9:55 · 11:23 · 11:43 · 12:21 · 14:11 · 16:1 · 17:2 · 18:8 · 18:42 · 20:46 · 22:8 · 22:32 · 24:32

John 1:1 · 1:3 · 1:8 · 1:10 · 1:18 · 3:5 · 4:1 · 4:3 · 4:24 · 8:12 · 8:23 · 10:9 · 10:30 · 10:36 · 14:28 · 16:26 · 16:33 · 17:3 · 17:6 · 17:11 · 18:28

Acts 1:1 · 1:14 · 1:15 · 4:24 · 10:28 · 14:4 · 16:4 · 26:14

Romans 1:20 · 2:14 · 2:21 · 8:26 · 10:8 · 11:33 · 11:36 · 16:7 · 16:21

1 Corinthians 1:10 · 5:3 · 5:11 · 12:3 · 12:8 · 12:12 · 12:26 · 13:12 · 14:2 · 15:5 · 15:50

2 Corinthians 4:13 · 5:1 · 5:10 · 11:2 · 11:29

Galatians 1:8 · 1:19 · 6:2

Ephesians 2:2 · 4:1 · 4:11 · 5:6 · 6:12

Philippians 2:6 · 2:7 · 2:9 · 2:10

Colossians 1:15

1 Thessalonians 2:6 · 5:13

1 Timothy 1:4 · 6:3

2 Timothy 3:4

Hebrews 1:3 · 2:3 · 3:7 · 4:9 · 13:17

James 1:17 · 4:1 · 5:4

1 Peter 2:11 · 4:7

2 Peter 1:4 · 2:1

1 John 1:1 · 2:22 · 4:1 · 4:2 · 4:3

2 John 1:7

Revelation 2:14 · 4:7 · 5:13

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What did the early church say true Christianity is?” on July 12, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

Library only. This study was written only from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed above, with a link to read it.

How it was made. Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.

How to cite this study. The Historic Faith, “What did the early church say true Christianity is?” Early Church Questions, published November 9, 2026, https://thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-did-the-early-church-say-true-christianity-is. To cite one quotation, add its number and source, for example “quote 1, source 23.”

© 2026 The Historic Faith. Selection, arrangement and editing by THF; machine-compiled text and public-domain quotations are not claimed. For personal study; please don’t republish.

THEHISTORICFAITH.COM

THE END OF THIS STUDY