

## Church Fathers / Episode 9 / Irenaeus

Video	Audio
	<p>&lt;&lt;CAM 1&gt;&gt;                      Hello and Welcome to this edition of Wisdom of the Fathers.</p>
Att. Picture of the Church (1).	The Catholic faith is one of rich intellectual tradition ... stretching all the way back to the time of Christ.
Att. Picture of the Ascension (2).	When Christ ascended into Heaven ... He left us a church that was in its infancy ... in its self-understanding.
Att. Picture of the Bible (3).	This infancy created a NEED within in the church for individuals to RISE UP and think about ... pray over ... and meditate upon what God was revealing.
Att. Picture of Church Fathers (4).	The answer to this NEED was the Church Fathers ... certain individuals who were intellectual giants ... gifted with the ability to either break down an article of faith into its simplest form or develop it further.
Att. Picture of Catholics in the Pews (5).	They did this so 'we' ordinary Catholics could understand the fullness of what Jesus was trying to purport to us in sacred scripture and apostolic tradition ... also known as the Deposit of Faith.
Att. Picture of Irenaeus of Lyons (6).	In this ninth episode of Wisdom of the Fathers we're going to talk about Irenaeus of Lyons ... an early Church Father. <<CAM 2>>
	Now ... before we get into the particulars of his life ... let's refocus our attention on the importance of this man.
Att. Picture of books (7).	Irenaeus is perhaps best known for his writings. He wrote a great deal. His

<p>Att. Type on "On the Detection and Overthrow of the so-called Gnosis".</p>	<p>most famous work is called ... "On the Detection and Overthrow of the So- Called Gnosis" ... normally referred to as, "Against Heresies." The purpose of this book is to refute the teachings of various Gnostic groups.</p> <p>As a side note ... Gnosticism purported that the world was fashioned and governed by the Demiurge . . . a lesser god . . . and that Jesus was merely an ambassador of a distant supreme being. As a result ... the gnostics believed that esoteric erudition enabled the redemption of the human spirit. In other words ... the doctrine of salvation by knowledge. &lt;&lt;CAM 1&gt;&gt;</p>
<p>Att. Picture of Irenaeus (8).</p>	<p>In opposition to this idea ... Irenaeus maintained that the Gospel message is for everyone. He went on to say, "If Christ did have a special secret teaching ... to whom would He entrust it? Clearly ... to His disciples ... to whom he spoke without reservation. And was the teaching of the Twelve different from that of Paul? Here the Gnostics have tried to drive a wedge between Paul and the Apostles ... but Peter writes of Paul in the highest terms ... as one whose teaching is authentic. Again ... we find Paul saying to the elders of the church at Ephesus ... that he has declared to them the whole counsel of God. Where ... then ... do we look for Christ's authentic teaching? In the congregations that were founded by the apostles ... who set trustworthy men in charge of them ... and charged them to pass on the teaching unchanged to future generations through carefully chosen successors."</p>
<p>Att. Picture of the New Testament (9).</p>	<p>In his five volume work on Gnosticism ... Irenaeus cites a number of sources such</p>

<p>Att. Picture of Irenaeus (6).  Att. Picture of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John (10).</p>	<p>as the New Testament canon ... as well as works from the Apostolic Fathers ... FIRST Clement and the Shepherd of Hermas ... however he makes no references to Philemon ... SECOND Peter ... THIRD John and Jude ... which isn't astonishing ... since the canon of the Holy Scriptures has not yet been set.</p> <p>Irenaeus was the first Christian writer to list all four of the canonical Gospels as divinely inspired.</p>
<p>Att. Picture of Irenaeus (8).   Att. Picture of Marcus Aurelius (11).  Att. Picture of Pope Eleuterus (12).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Life of St. Irenaeus of Lyons</b></p> <p>&lt;&lt;CAM 2&gt;&gt;</p> <p>St. Irenaeus was born in 130 A.D. He lived in a town called Smyrna in Asia Minor. He was brought up in a Christian family.</p> <p>Irenaeus was a priest of the Church of Lyons. In 161 through 180 ... the Roman Emperor ... Marcus Aurelius ... persecuted the clergy. In 177 ... the clergy of Irenaeus area sent him to Rome with a letter to Pope St. Eleuterus concerning the heresy of Montanism.</p> <p>As a side note ... Montanism was an early Christian movement of the late 2nd century ... later referred to by the name of its founder ... Montanus. It originated in Phrygia ... a province of Asia Minor ... and spread throughout the region. Although it came to be known as a heresy ... the movement held similar views about the basic tenets of Christian doctrine ... to those of the wider Christian Church. It was a prophetic movement that called for a reliance on the spontaneity of the Holy Spirit ... and a more conservative personal ethic.</p>

<p>Att. Picture of Irenaeus (6). Att. Picture of St. Pothinus (13).</p> <p>Att. Picture of Irenaeus (8).</p> <p>Att. Chair of Peter (14).</p>	<p>&lt;&lt;CAM 1&gt;&gt;</p> <p>When St. Irenaeus was in Rome ... a massacre broke out in Lyons. Many Christians were martyred including the bishop. Returning to the city ... Irenaeus succeeded the martyred Saint Pothinus and became the second Bishop of Lyons.</p> <p>After Irenaeus assumed his role as bishop ... religious persecution ceased. He then divided his activities between the duties of a pastor and that of a missionary. &lt;&lt;CAM 2&gt;&gt;</p> <p>In 202 A.D. ... St. Irenaeus passed away in Lyons, France. He is known as an apologist ... and his writings were formative in the early development of Christian theology. He emphasized the traditional elements in the Church ... especially the episcopate ... scripture ... and tradition. In addition ... his writings ... with those of St. Clement and St. Ignatius ... are known as the principal doctrines of the Roman see.</p> <p>Now that we have an understanding of who St. Irenaeus was ... let's take a look at what he had to say about apostolic tradition. &lt;&lt;CAM 1&gt;&gt;</p>
<p>Att. Granite Background (for all quotes); change color of background for each quote.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>St. Irenaeus on Apostolic Tradition</b></p> <p>"As I said before, the Church, having received this preaching and this faith, although she is disseminated throughout the whole world, yet guarded it, as if she occupied but one house. She likewise believes these things just as if she had but one soul and one and the same heart; and harmoniously she proclaims them and teaches them and hands them down, as if she possessed but one mouth. For,</p>

while the languages of the world are diverse, nevertheless, the authority of the tradition is one and the same" (Against Heresies 1:10:2 [A.D. 189]).

"That is why it is surely necessary to avoid them [heretics], while cherishing with the utmost diligence the things pertaining to the Church, and to lay hold of the tradition of truth. . . . What if the apostles had not in fact left writings to us? Would it not be necessary to follow the order of tradition, which was handed down to those to whom they entrusted the churches?" (ibid., 3:4:1).

"It is possible, then, for everyone in every church, who may wish to know the truth, to contemplate the tradition of the apostles which has been made known throughout the whole world. And we are in a position to enumerate those who were instituted bishops by the apostles and their successors to our own times—men who neither knew nor taught anything like these heretics rave about.

"But since it would be too long to enumerate in such a volume as this the successions of all the churches, we shall confound all those who, in whatever manner, whether through self-satisfaction or vainglory, or through blindness and wicked opinion, assemble other than where it is proper, by pointing out here the successions of the bishops of the greatest and most ancient church known to all, founded and organized at Rome by the two most glorious apostles, Peter and Paul, that church which has the tradition and the faith which comes down to us after having been announced to men by the apostles.

	<p>"With this church, because of its superior origin, all churches must agree—that is, all the faithful in the whole world—and it is in her that the faithful everywhere have maintained the apostolic tradition" (ibid., 3:3:1-2).</p>
<p>Att. Russell on screen; no pictures or animations.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>&lt;&lt;CAM 1&gt;&gt;</p> <p>Well ... that's all for this episode! Thank you for tuning in to Wisdom of the Fathers!</p> <p>AND make sure to catch us next time ... where we discuss our next Church Father ... St. Cyprian of Carthage and what he had to say about confession.</p> <p>I'm Russell Voris. God Bless!</p>