

Christian apologetics letter, "The Key of Knowledge"
from "The Epistle of Mathetus to Diognetus,"
Chapter X. "The Blessings that will Flow from Faith."
(early Church 2nd Century AD)



<https://www.catholic.com/encyclopedia/Epistle-to-Diognetus>

<https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/0101.htm>

"If this is The Faith you, too, desire, then you should first of all acquire a thorough knowledge of The Father. The fact is, GOD loved men and it was for their sake that He made the world; at their service He placed everything on earth; to them He gave reason and intelligence; them alone He endowed with the ability to look up to Him;

them He formed after His Own Image, to them He sent His Only Begotten Son, to them He promised The Kingdom in Heaven, and this He will give to those that love Him. And when you have acquired This Knowledge, with what joy do you think you will be filled! Or how intensely will you love Him Who first loved you so!

And once you love Him, you will be an imitator of His Kindness. And you must not be surprised that man can become an imitator of GOD. He can, since He so wills. Certainly, to be happy does not mean to tyrannize over the weaker ones, or to be rich and therefore able to use force against one's inferiors.

It is not in such matters that one can imitate GOD; no, such matters are foreign to His Majesty. On the other hand, he who takes his neighbor's burden upon himself, who is willing to benefit his inferior in a matter in which he is his superior, who provides the needy with what he himself has received from GOD –

he, I say, is an imitator of GOD! Then you will realize, while your lot is on earth, discourse on The Mysteries of GOD; then you will love and admire those who submit to punishment for their refusal to deny GOD;

then you will condemn the deceitfulness of the world [and] understand the real life in Heaven, once you despise the apparent death here below. Then you will admire and pronounce happy those who endure fire that lasts but for a while." *

*["The Key of Knowledge." from "The Epistle of Mathetus to Diognetus," Chapter X, "The Blessings that will Flow from Faith." The Magnificat, 10/14/2021. Meditation of the Day, p 198-199.]