

Didache: An Ancient Future Catechism (Ancient Faith Matters Series Book 1)

Mark Whitten



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Didache: An Ancient Future Catechism (Ancient Faith Matters Series Book 1) Mark Whitten In a world where everything we thought we knew, seems to be shifting beneath our feet, it is comforting to know that our Christian faith is an unchanging and ancient one. With knowledge increasing exponentially, how can we expect to keep up? How do we find solid ground in the midst of fundamental transformation? How can we get the answers we need for our daily Christian life without sifting through a thousand different interpretations and opinions of armchair theologians? Reliable, relevant, and historical guidance can only be found in one place...its original source. We must go back and uncover the ancient wells of our faith to find what is true, what is certain, what is rooted. Too often, we hear of "how things were done in the early church" by preachers and teachers using scant portions of the Bible (often out of context) to formulate a theology for Christian living in postmodernity. Although Scripture gives us glimpses of that daily life and forms a foundation of principles to live by in the New Covenant, it does not explicitly show how the early church trained its new converts, administered its sacraments, or organized its government. Didache: An Ancient-Future Catechism uncovers this primitive protocol of our faith's most original members, and uses it as an anchor for grounding personal and corporate worship practices.

Even within the various traditions and movements of the Church, there seem to be ever-encroaching grey areas that are no longer simple to define. This uncertainty leaves us doubting our churches, our leaders, and ultimately our faith. There is however, a simple, straightforward, Scripture-aligned text that gives us the black and white answers we so desperately need in our greying world. This work has served the church as an anchor and a guidepost for nearly to two-thousand years; and will continue to do so if we embrace and uncover its treasures old and new.

The Didache served the early church as a sort of handbook for Christian living. It is concrete and specific in its instruction on ethics, sacraments, and organization of the Church. There is little doubt that the Didache was used to prepare new converts for Baptism and to instruct Gentile believers in the faith. The text dates back as far as the first century and is referenced by early Christians such as Eusebius, Athanasius, and Rufinus, as well as others.

If you are searching for clear, unabashed answers for Christian living, Didache: An Ancient Future Catechism is a great place to start. It is an ancient source that can be trusted. This book, with its dynamic adaptation includes the original text and may be used as a catechism for new believers or baptismal candidates, a devotional text for individuals, a book study for small groups, a guide for sermons, or whatever other edifying endeavor one might find use for it in a personal or corporate setting.

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