**Quotations from Week 6 Video (2nd week of Ignatius of Antioch):**

**Video on the Role of Bishops and Apostolic Succession**

2 Tim. 4:1-6 – “I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power: proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching. For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths. But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry.”

Acts 20:28-31 –

“Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you guardians [episkopos / overseers], to feed the church of the Lord which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, be alert…And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

1 Tim 6:20-21: Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith.

2 Tim 1:14: Guard the good deposit that was **entrusted to you**-guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

Paul warns of dissension:

Rom 16:17 - I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who create dissensions and obstacles, in opposition to the teaching that you learned; avoid them. 1 Cor 1:10 - I urge you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose

2 Pet 2: 1-10 - There were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will introduce destructive heresies and even deny the Master who ransomed them, bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their licentious ways, and because of them the way of truth will be reviled. In their greed they will exploit you with fabrications, but from of old their condemnation has not been idle and their destruction does not sleep…

Eph 4:1-6 - I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

1 Tim 6: 3-5 - Whoever teaches something different and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the religious teaching is conceited, understanding nothing, and has a morbid disposition for arguments and verbal disputes. From these come envy, rivalry, insults, evil suspicions, and mutual friction among people with corrupted minds, who are deprived of the truth, supposing religion to be a means of gain.

CCC 861: “In order that the mission entrusted to them might be continued after their death, [the apostles] consigned, by will and testament, as it were, to their immediate collaborators the duty of completing and consolidating the work they had begun, urging them to tend to the whole flock, in which the Holy Spirit had appointed them to shepherd the Church of God. They accordingly designated such men and then made the ruling that likewise on their death other proven men should take over their ministry.”

Clement of Rome, Letter to the Corinthians chapter 44:

“Our apostles also knew, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that there would be strife on account of the office of the episcopate. For this reason, therefore, inasmuch as they had obtained a perfect fore-knowledge of this, they appointed those [ministers] already mentioned, and afterwards gave instructions, that when these should fall asleep, other approved men should succeed them in their ministry. We are of opinion, therefore, that those appointed by them, or afterwards by other eminent men, with the consent of the whole church, and who have blamelessly served the flock of Christ, in a humble, peaceable, and disinterested spirit, and have for a long time possessed the good opinion of all, cannot be justly dismissed from the ministry. For our sin will not be small, if we eject from the episcopate those who have blamelessly and holily fulfilled its duties...”

Irenaeus, Against Heresies, 4:33:8 (A.D. 180):

“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 of Christ according to the successions of the bishops, by which they have handed down that Church which exists in every place, and has come even unto us, being guarded and preserved without any forging of Scriptures, by a very complete system of doctrine, and neither receiving addition nor [suffering] curtailment [in the truths which she believes]; and [it consists in] reading [the word of God] without falsification, and a lawful and diligent exposition in harmony with the Scriptures, both without danger and without blasphemy; and [above all, it consists in] the pre-eminent gift of love, which is more precious than knowledge, more glorious than prophecy, and which excels all the other gifts [of God].”

Ignatius of Antioch, AD 107:

Letter to the Ephesians:

Their bishop is Onesimus whom Ignatius met as the Roman soldiers took him through Smyrna on the way to Rome. He will exhort the people to be unified to him as their bishop and to listen and obey.

3: It is the will of Jesus Christ to have bishops and they are settled throughout the known world.

2: Exhorts Christians to be united to the bishop and in doing so says that they will then have a unanimous obedience and be sanctified.

4: This unity to the entire Church through their bishop allows them to remain in communion with God.

5: Do not oppose the bishop.

Why? Because he is the means by which the people are united to the Church and thus to Jesus Christ.

6: “It is manifest…that we should look upon the bishop even as we would upon the Lord Himself…”

The bishop represents Christ to the community because he is a successor to the Apostles, given authority of this office in his ordination, authority to govern, sanctify, celebrate the sacraments, teach the faith and guard the truths given to him from the Apostles, the same truths Christ had given to the Apostles to be handed down.

20: Obey the bishop with an undivided mind and share in the same Eucharist

Letter to the Magnesians:

Their bishop is Damas whom Ignatius met in Smyrna

3: Give the bishop respect and reverence. Submit to God through your submission to your bishop. Obey and honor your bishop and those who do not do this, mock God himself.

13: “Be subject to the bishop and to one another, as Jesus Christ to the Father, according to the flesh, and the apostles to Christ, and to the Father and to the Spirit; that so there may be a union both fleshly and spiritual.”

Letter to the Trallians:

Their bishop Polybius, met in Smyrna

2: Because you are subject to the bishop as you are to Jesus Christ you are living after the manner of life Jesus asks of us. Without the bishop you should do nothing.

6-7: heretics mix truth with error but it can be like a sweet wine mixed with poison that the ignorant drink greedily. So be on guard. Don’t fall prey to heresy. And the means to avoid this is to remain humble and to continue in intimate union with Jesus Christ, with the bishop and with the enactments of the Apostles. Again we see the role of bishops in keeping the people united to Christ and to the truth. And now we also see that through the bishops the enactments of the Apostles are also received. I’ve seen this translates as Enactments or precepts or commands. But this shows us that the Apostles teachings and instructions are being handed down to the people through the bishops.

Letter to the Philadelphians
2: “Wherefore, as children of light and truth, flee from division and wicked doctrines; but where the shepherd is, there follow as sheep. For there are many wolves that appear worthy of credit, who, by means of a pernicious pleasure, carry captive those that are running towards God; but in your unity they shall have no place.”
They can avoid division and false doctrine by following their shepherd but how do they know who this is? Implies he is visible. There are wolves who can be tempting to follow but suggests there is way to tell them apart. For one, wolves cause disunity and division. But wolves do not have credit like the shepherds. What credit?
3: those who are of God and of Jesus Christ are with the bishop. “If any man follows him that makes a schism in the Church, he shall not inherit the kingdom of God. If any one walks according to a strange opinion, he agrees not with the passion [of Christ].”
8: “where there is division and wrath God does not dwell. To all them that repent, the Lord grants forgiveness if they turn in penitence to the unity of God and to communion with the bishop...”

Letter to the Smyrnaeans
7-8: avoid all division as the beginning of evils. Follow the bishop just as Jesus Christ does the Father. “Let no man do anything connected with the Church without the bishop. Let that be deemed a proper Eucharist which is (administered) either by the bishop or by one to whom he has entrusted it. Wherever the bishop shall appear, there let the multitude (of the people) also be; even as wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church.” Not lawful to have a baptism without bishops approval. “...whatsoever he shall approve of, that is also pleasing to God, so that everything that is done may be secure and valid.”
So unity to the Bishop helps to avoid division which is evil. And Bishop is also essential for the Sacraments. There is a strong sense here that the bishop is the backbone of the Christian community in many levels.
9: “It is well to reverence both God and the bishop. He who honors the bishop has been honored by God; he who does anything without the knowledge of the bishop does [in reality] serve the devil.”

Tertullian, Prescription against the Heretics, 33 (A.D. 200):

“But if there be any (heresies) which are bold enough to plant themselves in the midst Of the apostolic age, that they may thereby seem to have been handed down by the apostles, because they existed in the time of the apostles, we can say: Let them produce the original records of their churches; let them unfold the roll of their bishops, running down in due succession from the beginning in such a manner that [that first bishop of theirs] bishop shall be able to show for his ordainer and predecessor some one of the apostles or of apostolic men,–a man, moreover, who continued steadfast with the apostles. …To this test, therefore will they be submitted for proof by those churches, who, although they derive not their founder from apostles or apostolic men (as being of much later date, for they are in fact being founded daily), yet, since they agree in the same faith, they are accounted as not less apostolic because they are akin in doctrine…Then let all the heresies, when challenged to these two tests by our apostolic church, offer their proof of how they deem themselves to be apostolic. But in truth they neither are so, nor are they able to prove themselves to be what they are not. Nor are they admitted to peaceful relations and communion by such churches as are in any way connected with apostles, inasmuch as they are in no sense themselves apostolic because of their diversity as to the mysteries of the faith.”