



The Early Church: From Ignatius to Augustine

George Hodges

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In the first century A.D., the roots of the early Church began to spread across the Roman world.

But who were its leaders?

And how did it survive through waves of hostility and oppression?

George Hodges, in this fascinating history, explains how the early Church developed from its lowly and persecuted origins of the first century through to becoming the main religion of the Roman Empire and the various kingdoms that succeeded it.

Hodges provides a full picture of the Roman Empire and its religion at this time, explaining how the Church was able to gain a foothold, how heresy nearly tore it apart and how many men and women sacrificed their own lives to protect the faith.

He uncovers why by the third century the Church began to develop into a settled and definite organisation, with leaders, like Cyprian and Cyril, who assisted their followers, convened at gatherings like the Council of Nicaea to agree on doctrinal matters and how monasticism developed in both the East and West.

Finally, Hodges explains how the Church was able survive the collapse of the Roman Empire, a state that had begun to protect and support the Church after Constantine's conversion in 312. The Church was forced to contend with the power vacuum of the tumultuous fourth and fifth centuries and to make allies and convert the pagans who were threatening them.

The Early Church: From Ignatius to Augustine is a brilliant history of the late Roman Empire and how the Christian Church developed within it.

George Hodges was an American theologian and dean of the Episcopal Theological School at Cambridge Massachusetts. *The Independent* stated that many of his works were reissued during his lifetime due to "the high esteem in which his religious messages are held by the reading public." This work was first published in 1915 and he died in 1919.

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