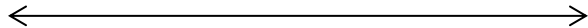


Christians are not different from the rest of men in nationality, speech, or customs; they do not live in states of their own, nor do they use a special language, nor adopt a peculiar way of life. Their teaching is not the kind of thing that could be discovered by the wisdom or reflection of mere active-minded men; indeed, they are not outstanding in human learning as others are. Whether fortune has given them a home in a Greek or foreign city, they follow local custom in the matter of dress, food, and way of life; yet the character of the culture they reveal is marvellous and, it must be admitted, unusual. They live, each in his native land—but as though they were not really at home there. They share in all duties like citizens and suffer all hardships like strangers. Every foreign land is for them a fatherland and every fatherland a foreign land. They marry like the rest of men and beget children, but they do not abandon the babies that are born. They share a common board, but not a common bed. In the flesh as they are, they do not live according to the flesh. They dwell on earth, but they are citizens of heaven. They obey the laws that men make, but their lives are better than the laws. They love all men, but are persecuted by all. They are unknown, and yet they are condemned. They are put to death, yet are more alive than ever. They are paupers, but they make many rich. They lack all things, and yet in all things they abound. They are dishonored, yet glory in their dishonor. They are maligned, and yet are vindicated. They are reviled, and yet they bless. They suffer insult, yet they pay respect. They do good, yet are punished with the wicked. When they are punished, they rejoice, as though they were getting more of life. They are attacked by the Jews as Gentiles and are persecuted by the Greeks, yet those who hate them can give no reason for their hatred

~Excerpt from The Letter to Diognetus.



'Wherefore, girding up your loins, serve God in fear' and in truth; abandon empty vanity and the waywardness of the crowd, 'believing in Him who raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead and gave Him glory,' and a throne at His right hand. 'To Him are subject all things in Heaven and on earth,' Him every breath serves and He will come as 'the judge of the living and of the dead and His blood God will require from them who disobey Him.' Now 'He who raised him' from the dead 'will also raise us,' if we do His will and advance in His commandments and love what He loved, abstaining from all injustice, covetousness, love of money, slander, false witness, 'not rendering evil for evil, nor abuse for abuse' or blow for blow, or curse for curse. No! Remember what the Lord said when he taught: 'Judge not, that you may not be judged. Forgive, and you shall be forgiven. Be merciful, that you may obtain mercy. With what measure you measure, it shall be measured to you in return.' And again: 'Blessed are the poor, and they who are persecuted for justice' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of God.'

~Excerpt from The Letter of St. Polycarp To The Philippians.

NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

Sioux Falls, SD



*Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is
within me, bless his holy name.*

Psalms 103:1

Services at 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 or 6:30 p.m.