

# *Defenders & Defamers*

## • Lesson Two •

*The Ancient Church*  
100 A.D. – 300 A.D.

### **100 A.D. – 300 A.D.**

#### *Defamers*

Roman Government

### **100 A.D. – 200 A.D.**

#### *Defenders*

Polycarp of Smyrna (69-156 A.D.)

Ignatius of Antioch (?-110 A.D.)

Justin Martyr (100-165 A.D.)

#### *Defamers*

Theodotus of Byzantium (c. 190 A.D.) & Adoptionism

Marcion (c. 110-160 A.D.) & Marcionism

Montanus (c. 140 A.D.) & Montanism

#### *Developments*

Worship

The Canon

Apostles' Creed

The Monarchical Bishop

## 200 A.D. – 300 A.D.

### *Defenders*

Irenaeus of Lyons (130-200 A.D.)

Origen of Alexandria (185-254 A.D.)

Tertullian of Carthage (160-220 A.D.)

### *Developments*

Novatianism

### Discussion

1. What effect do you think the persecutions had on the Christian Church?
2. What did Ignatius of Antioch affirm when he wrote about Jesus: *“There is one Physician: both flesh and spirit, made and unmade, in man, God, in death, true life, both from Mary and from God...Jesus Christ our Lord.”*
3. Based on the following quote, would you say that Justin Martyr correctly understood Holy Communion? Why or why not?  
*And this food is called among us the Eucharist, of which no one is allowed to partake but the man who believes that the things we teach are true, and who has been washed with the washing that is for the remission of sins, and unto regeneration, and who is so living as Christ has enjoined. For not as common bread and common drink do we receive these; but in like manner as Jesus Christ our Savior, having been made flesh by the Word of God, had both flesh and blood for our salvation, so likewise have we been taught that the food which is blessed by the prayer of His Word, and from which our blood and flesh by transmutation are nourished, is the flesh and blood of that Jesus who was made flesh. For the apostles, in the memoirs composed by them, which are called Gospels, have thus delivered unto us what was enjoined upon them; that Jesus took bread and, when he had given thanks, said, “This do ye in remembrance of Me, This is My body;” and that, after the same manner, having taken the cup and given thanks, He said, “This is my blood,” and gave it to them.*
4. Explain: The church didn’t invent the canon any more than Isaac Newton invented gravity.
5. Origen once explained that the two donkeys of Palm Sunday represent the Old and New Testament. By untying and bringing the donkeys to Jesus, the two disciples supposedly signified how the Apostles would bring God’s Word to the people. Origen also said that the crowds that went before Jesus represent the service of angels. What’s the danger of Origen’s interpretation method?
6. Tertullian explained that the Triune God is one in “essence,” not one in “person.” Why is this distinction important?