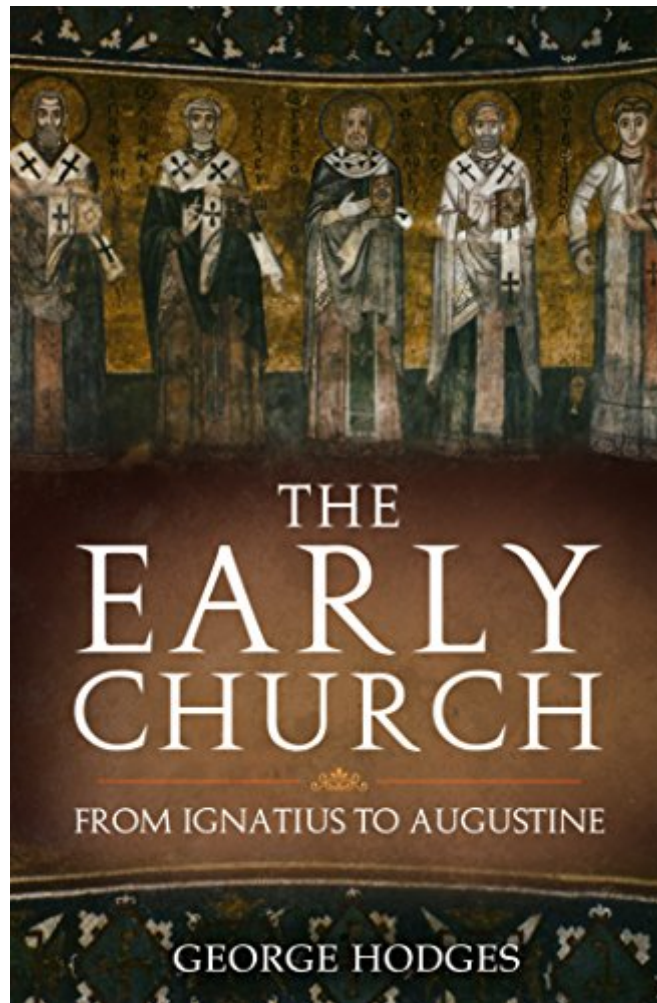




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# The Early Church: From Ignatius To Augustine



## Synopsis

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 to 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.

## Book Information

File Size: 2439 KB

Print Length: 166 pages

Publisher: Moellon House (December 13, 2016)

Publication Date: December 13, 2016

Sold by: Â Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01N4E04E1

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #51,079 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #14

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## Customer Reviews

Mr. Hodges explains so clearly the different influences and environments which resulted in the structures and creeds of the Christian church. It's so nice to have an explanation not only of what happened but why it was happening at the time. Very clearly and personably written. I just wish there weren't so many typos.

Touches a lot of basics. The frustration with history is that it is hard to find the perfect book for what you are looking for. Either too much detail or too little. The end of the book has a nice summary of the various movements.

As a student of the early church and the Roman Empire of that time, I found Mr. Hodges' book accurate and very interesting. I learned new things about about Roman society, the religion of the empire and the early Christian Church. The author presents himself as a Christian in side of orthodoxy; however, the agnostic or critic of orthodoxy will not be disappointed. As an ebook it contains a number of typographic errors that could have been avoided with more proof-reading, but they did not distract me from the read.

It was a great surprise and delight to find this book written in such a clear and interesting style. The experiences of the early church leaders are covered in enough detail for understanding. The reader gains an appreciation of the struggles, courage, and sometimes suffering of these who kept the faith. The book adds a great measure of appreciation for the work of the early contributors. An important read.

My first comment is one I would not expect to make in a professionally published book: Did anyone proofread this?? There were numerous errors, letters skipped and, misplaced punctuation to the extent that it was sometimes difficult to follow the meaning. Having said that, I found the book mildly interesting and informative. A serious student of history or theology might be more enthusiastic..

The book is a history and so you would expect it to be dry but it kept me interested, brought tears to my eyes and clarified so many things about our current times to me. I saw a lot of parallels to today that people need to pay attention to.

Very interesting and a life changing experience. I as an orthodox Diacon learn a lot. The illustration of the book is very good. I recommend to all Christians to read this book.

The book gives a vivid picture of the Roman Empire in the early centuries of the Church and the Church itself, including Church Fathers and important Church figures. I would be careful in taking some author's opinions and interpretations for granted though. Also some typos don't spoil the pleasure of reading but are annoying anyway. Some people simply don't seem to realize that publishing is also editing and proofreading.

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