WHAT THE WORLD EXPECTS OF THE CHURCH

INTRODUCTION:

1. Christians are warned to watch how they walk before the world -- Col. 4:5; I Thess. 4:12; I Tim. 3:7

2. The church is in the world, but not of the world -- John 17: 14 - 16

   (1) The word "church" means: "Called out" -- the church has been called out of the world by the gospel -- II Thess. 2:14

3. The world among whom we walk has certain expectations of us.

4. Let us now examine these expectations.

I. THE WORLD HAS SOME UNREASONABLE AND UNSCRIPTURAL EXPECTATIONS

1. Many in the world expect sinless perfection.
   (1) They shout "hypocrite" at every sign of weakness on the part of Christians.
   (2) In this attitude the world is WRONG -- I John 1: 8 - 9; Gal. 6: 1 - 2; Rom. 8:3

2. Many in the world expect the church to serve as a hospital, club, school, amusement center and a political bureau.
   (1) In this they have a misunderstanding of what the church is.
   (2) The mission of the church is to save the lost and edify the saved -- I Tim. 3:15; Eph. 4: 11 -12; Matt. 28:19 - 20
   (3) The church is concerned with the souls of men -- Lk. 19:10

3. Many in the world expect it to please all and to offend none.
   (1) Please all, from the bootlegger to the saints.
   (2) Here again, the world has the wrong attitude
      1. Luke 6:26
      2. Jesus offended men -- Matt. 15:12; John 6: 60 - 61, 66

4. Many in the world expect the church to adjust to every change in philosophy, science, psychology, education, moral standards, and opinions.
   (1) "There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the Lord" -- Prov. 21:30
   (2) Truth does not, and cannot, change -- I Pet. 1:25; Matt. 24: 35
   (3) Christ does not change -- Heb. 13:8
   (4) Sin does not change, and human nature does not change -- Gen. 3:6; I John 2: 15 - 17

II. SOME THINGS THE WORLD HAS A RIGHT TO EXPECT OF THE CHURCH

1. The world has a right to expect Christians to be Christ-like
   (1) He was obedient to His parents -- Luke 2: 51 - 52
      1. Jesus had John to take care of His mother when he died on the cross -- John 19: 26 - 27
2. Christians must be obedient to their parents -- Eph. 6: 1 - 4; 1 Tim. 5: 4, 8, 16
3. He loved lost man and gave His life that man might be saved -- John 3:16

2. The world has a right to expect Christians to have convictions -- Jude 3; Phil. 1:17
   (1) Only when we have convictions will we have respect from the world
   (2) They will respect us, though they do not agree.
3. The world has a right to expect the church to preach and teach the WORD OF GOD
   (1) Doctors do not attend the services of the church to hear about science.
   (2) Merchants do not attend to hear about economics
   (3) Men attend the services of the church to hear the Word of God -- II Tim. 4: 1 - 4
4. The world has a right to expect Christians to uphold the dignity, honor, and glory of Christ and His church.
   (1) In manner of life -- I Tim. 4:12
   (2) In our homes -- Eph. 5: 22 -25
   (3) In business -- Rom. 12:11
   (4) In social life -- I Pet. 4:4; II Cor. 6: 14 - 17
   (5) In faithful attendance -- Heb. 10:25

III. WHAT SHOULD BE OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THESE EXPECTATIONS?
1. We should give no attention to the unreasonable expectations.
2. We should be deeply concerned about the right things.
3. The church will be respected, and will succeed, just to the extent that each and every member measures up.
4. We do not assume the attitude that "it is none of their business" -- II Cor. 3:2
5. The outsider who makes these demands surely is responsible, and should be in the church.
6. We do not boast of perfection, but that we are only making an effort, which is more than the man of the world is doing.
   (1) He should consider the "beam" in his own eye.
7. We are not trying to please men, but God -- Gal. 1:10
8. We say to the world, "Will you not try to do the same??"

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