

Expected to be Connected



A man in the crowd said, “Teacher, I brought my son who is possessed by a spirit... I asked [expected] your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.”

(Mark 9:17-18)

Do unbelievers have the right to ask believers to pray, help out, intervene, care?

Do unbelievers have the right to expect certain standards of behavior/morals from believers?

Do unbelievers have the right to ask/expect believers to do/accomplish something they do not do themselves?

REALITY

- The world hears the rhetoric... we are “connected to God”
- The world expects certain behavior/ability as a result of our claim
- Whether this expectation is right or wrong is irrelevant. *It is simply there!*

RESPONSE?

A) *I reject it!* It is unfair for a non-Christian to expect something of me simply because I am a Christian

A) I accept it! It provides opportunity and accountability for me to exhibit God's power

Be wise in the way you act toward **outsiders**. Make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

(Col 4:5-6)

- best **behavior** possible *“This is an opportunity beyond my comprehension.”*
- guarded, gracious **speech** Refuse to say *“Your expectation toward me is ridiculous.”*

Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life,
to mind your own business... so that your
daily life will win the respect of **outsiders**
and you will not be dependent on anybody.

(1 Thess. 4:11-12)

- **quiet** life – not exploiting or abusing the unbeliever
- **open** life – not so “withdrawn” that the unbeliever has no opportunity to “respect” you.

We have conducted ourselves in the **world...** in the holiness and sincerity that are from God. We have not done this according to worldly wisdom, but according to God's grace. *(11 Cor. 1:12)*

HOLINESS... motivated by God's nature
and committed to God's values

SINCERITY... standards that are no different
in public or private.

Expectations of non-Christians toward Christians sometimes are unfair and/or hypocritical. Yet they also are opportunities to demonstrate our connection to God.
SO...

- a) I do not respond simply to **please/entertain** them.

- b) I do take their expectations seriously as a challenge to **witness** and **prove** God's power.