

What Does God Expect of a Congregation? (1)

Of the 27 N.T. books, more than half were specifically written to a congregation. Knowing what God expects of a congregation is important. Just being busy isn't enough. Just doing great deeds is not enough. The solemn words of Matthew 7:21-23 reminds us that we must be about the will of our Father.

What God Expects from a congregation:

- Rom 12:9-16
- Acts 20:28-31
- 1 Cor 1:10; 11:23-26; 14:40
16:1-2
- Gal 3:26-29
- Eph 3:19-22; 4:1-3, 31-5:4
- Phil 2:3-5, 14-15
- 1 Thes 1:6, 8; 5:14
- 2 Thes 3:6



• EXPECTATIONS OF GOD



- EPHESUS: loveless church
- SYMRNA: suffering church
- PERGAMUM: compromising church
- THYATIRA: corrupted church
- SARDIS: lifeless church
- PHILADELPHIA: faithful church
- LAODICEA: lukewarm church

Common things that are important to us are not brought up:

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The Address to the Seven Churches of Asia (Rev 2-3)

Common Characteristics of the letters



1. Addressed to angel of church
2. Characteristic of Jesus from chapter one
3. I know...
 - recognizing what is right
 - rebuke of what is wrong
 - “But I have...”
4. Call to repentance
5. “He who has ear to hear...”
6. Future promise to faithful

- ☞ Not all congregations are the _____
- ☞ God never _____ the churches with each other
- ☞ Every congregation faces _____ & _____ (internal & external)
- ☞ The members _____ the condition of the congregation
- ☞ What others _____ about them was not nearly as important as what God _____ about them
- ☞ God believes that even among the worst conditions, things can get _____. He is optimistic.
- ☞ The wellbeing of a congregation is based _____ upon their _____ to the word of God
- ☞ It is possible to do _____ when others are _____
- ☞ People and congregations can _____
- ☞ Difficult times are not a reflection of God's _____
- ☞ God is interested in _____ & _____