

mt 5:13-16

E. The Church in Society...it is in the world but not of the world

1. An Introductory Note:

The church is a social institution meaning it is comprised of people, not buildings nor ornaments, but people. It does have a role in society (1 Peter 2, Galatians 6:10, Romans 13-14, etc.) but it is not a governmental or a judicial role. It has its place in representing the Lord to the masses of people and it has varied means for filling that role. Since this is a history class I can tell what has been done but not detail what it should have done--or at least I should try avoiding that in any definitive sense...I am allowed my own ideas but one can not exercise them on time past.

mt 5

Matthew 25:37

2. The early church was concerned with survival and witness so it did not enter into the world about it with social programs but notice how careful it was to tend to its own and benefit each other (Acts 1-4)

3. Up until the Edict of Milan the church had little to show to society, survival was the issue, although it did set up some schools and other things of public interest and service. But following Nicaea it moved into the social order and eventually brought an end to the Olympic games for what it regarded as indecency and it also had a strong position on many other amusements. But in both the western and eastern world it quickly became a founder of schools and some outreach to slaves and impoverished. The hospital work will come much later but will be a product of the Gospel's interest in the welfare of mankind. Several of the monastic orders (a bit later) were developed chiefly as helpers to the economy and the poor and needy. *Charlemagne (wages)*

the Cathedrals
the Olympics

from the Crusades
whole order
Hospital

4. In the middle ages the church became a "patron of the arts" in literature, architecture, etc. Contributions in these fields went more to the "upper classes" but there was a trickle down in agriculture and medicine. *little help for the poor*

5. The scholastics employed mediaeval humanism to enable them to reach out to the masses and offer life advice. A lot of it was too high for the masses but the view was that man was created by God and he needed to be treated better, Social

The Monasteries
St. Francis