

Are You A Good Ambassador For Christ?

II Corinthians 5:20-21

Are you a good ambassador for Christ? If I were to have a subtopic for the lesson tonight it would be in the form of a question, and that would be “How of an effective witness are you”? But staying with the lesson topic, what does it mean to be an ambassador for Christ? Hopefully by the grace of God we aim to teach on this tonight.

The writers of the New Testament focused on many major themes—becoming like Christ, how to treat each other, how to interact and live in the world, what we shall become. In reading their letters and epistles, we can see that we are to be easily distinguishable from the world around us, yet not withdraw from society and live as hermits. This is the 2nd letter written to the Corinthian church, and in this letter the Apostle Paul is hammering in on all the issues that affected the church and the areas where the church needed to improve on. The church had to be distinguished from the world. There was so much ambiguity, and people not preaching truth that the lines were blurred. The Apostle Paul boldly stated to the church at Corinth, that you are now ambassadors for Christ. Let’s break down our text.

II Corinthians 5:20-21 KJV

²⁰ Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

²¹ For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

What does it mean to be an ambassador of Christ? In laymen terms, ambassadors are the highest-ranking representatives of their governments abroad, and their primary responsibility is to represent and work towards the best interests of their government or head of state. They are not elected—instead they are chosen by the government or head of state, and it is a huge honor to be chosen as one. We, too, have been given the enormous honor of an ambassador of Christ when God called and chose us to follow Him. Way back in the very first letter written to the Corinthians the Apostle Paul declared in 1st Corinthians 1:26 which states “For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:” I hope that you are getting a clear picture of what role you play here on earth.

You are that individual that represents Christ on earth. We are not the Vicar of Christ, Christ incarnate, but we represent Him. If we don't go any further than that, we could honestly end the lesson on that note right there. Just knowing who you are in Christ and how you represent Him to the world is very vital to church and the world. We don't belong to the world; we don't live for the world. We are told to be in the world but not of it. You are representatives of another world. No I am not talking about Area 51 either; and/or movies like E.T. or aliens coming down on the mothership, swing down sweet chariot, stop and let me ride. 1st Peter 2:9 states "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

You, yes you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation, a peculiar people. We can spend all day here on this text as well, but I don't want you to lose sight of the main text at hand. Hebrews 13:14 states "For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come." Many build wealth here, which is good, but get so much focused on this world that they lose sight of the eternal city, our heavenly home. We are here for a little while until our work is finished, and our Lord will call us home. Brother preacher, what does all this mean? I am so glad you want to know tonight. Basically what the Lord is saying is that we are the ones chosen by God and that He has chosen us for the high calling of priestly work, and also chosen us to be a holy people, His very special instruments to do His work and speak out for Him on this earth.

So ask yourselves tonight, am I a good ambassador for Christ? There was a true story about a hotel back in the 80's. There came in 2 gentlemen who had made special reservations there several months back. When it came time to check-in at the hotel, the hotel had lost their reservations. The clerk at the counter made light of their situation and laughed at them and the hotel manager didn't do anything about to accommodate these gentlemen who had traveled such a ways to get there. The story goes that these two men left, and little did the hotel know that they were some of the world's wealthiest men at the time. So the two men ran ads in the paper against the hotel and had all sorts of publicity surrounding it of how they were treated at this hotel. That hotel felt the effects of that day forever as they had to file for bankruptcy and close.

Now, if you will imagine if that were Christian Ambassadors witnessing for Christ? The effect that 1 little hotel clerk costed the company severely. Imagine you are I

being in that role of the hotel clerk, but spiritually, what would that look like? Christ has trusted us with more power and influence than that hotel clerk. You can lead someone to Christ, and you can also turn people away. As our Bishop say we can scatter the flock if we are not careful. Proverbs 11:30 states “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.” As an ambassador of Christ, you can literally win souls for Christ, or you can make someone not even want to pursue Christianity, just by the way you act, or speak, or deal with them. Look at what Ghandi stated about Christianity, he said ‘If it weren’t for Christians, I’d be a Christian.’ Think about that for a moment. We don’t want to be hypocrites, we should show the world love and not be judgmental in actions, lest we find ourselves faced with the same judgment, therefore the Scripture says Judge not. Matthew 7:1.

God has given us a job to do and we need to be about our father’s business just as Jesus was. Being an ambassador for Christ is the fulfillment of the incredibly important kingdom perspective. To follow Christ means to give up the kingdom of self and the kingdom of the world, and pledge allegiance to the kingdom of God. It means our home is heaven, not earth. Our responsibility is to tell others about that good news so they can join the kingdom of God as well. That is the essence of St. John 3:16. I am sure we all know this verse. How many forget the very next verse which is equally important. St. John 3:17 which states “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” God didn’t send Jesus into the world to condemn it, but through him the world might be saved. Do you understand this? Some have their priorities mixed up. They are judging people, condemning people when we have no heaven or hell to put anyone. That is not God, we are not God, we shouldn’t be trying to take the place of God; we are giving ourselves too much credit.

Being an ambassador of Christ requires us to be careful of how we act and how we speak. Colossians 4:6 states “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.” We cannot have diarrhea at the mouth. Just all bad if you get the picture.

On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate yourself of being a good ambassador of Christ? No need to answer to me, for I am not your judge. This is a self-reflecting question. Did you get in a heated debate like the presidential debate last night and tell someone where to go recently, and no I am not talking about someone asking for directions either. If you did, we may want to check ourselves before we wreck

ourselves. You have to be honest with yourself and before God, rest assured He knows all who are His and if you are living up to par or not. Hebrews 12:14 states “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:”

God is the one who has appointed and anointed us, but it is you and I who must choose to be obedient and do the work. God sets before us a choice every day. (Scripture references Deuteronomy 11:26; 30:19-20)

There are a few things that we must remember. 1st is that Jesus is not going to come down from heaven to do the work that He has sent us to do. The Bible declares the next time He comes back is to be judge of the earth; we are commissioned to do the work. Hebrews 13:21 states “Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” It is His will for us to do the work. 2nd thing is we must realize that even though God may have given us the ability to speak on His behalf as a proxy, he doesn’t need us to do anything; we need him to do everything. If anyone speaks, he/she should do it as one speaking the very words of God, not our own interpretation of it, II Timothy 3:16-17. With that we better make sure that it lines up with the Word of God, and we better be very careful to not add or take away from the Word as the Lord states our names could be taken away from the book of life and that we can endure the plagues that are written therein. Scriptural Reference Revelation 22:18-19; Deuteronomy 4:2

So through us God is calling out to the unbelieving world around us. He is urging all people to become reunited with him and to repent, for He wishes that none should perish. II Peter 3:9. What an amazing privilege we have to witness to those who are lost. We are powerful representatives of Christ on this earth. It is truly an honor and privilege, but it is one that must be done of our own free will. So to close out this lesson, are you a good ambassador for Christ? If you are then keep sharpening your tools with the Word of God, and if not, then get to it. Amen.

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