

WE ARE AMBASSADORS OF CHRIST

2 Corinthians 5:20

What is an ambassador? They represent a nation or a kingdom sent out on a mission to build relationships between the two nations.

I. What my role is as an ambassador.

A. I am a representative of Jesus to this world.

1. On Sunday morning we have studied that as Christians this world is not our home.
2. This means you have to understand the difference between your career and your calling.
3. You work for a company, but you are called by God.

***NOTE** The worlds voice and vocation came from the same root word. It is a calling to your life. The rodeo champion said I am a Christian disguised as a cowboy.

4. As a Christian your primary calling is to be a disciple of Jesus.
5. You may be disguised as a factory worker, a parent, a CEO, etc. but you are an ambassador of Jesus.
6. This means it affects the way I live.

“Be sure that you live in such a way that it brings honor to the Good News of Christ.” (Philippians 1:27, NCV)

An ambassador has to seriously live in such a way that they do not bring reproach upon the nation they represent.

“Live a life worthy of the calling you have received.” (Eph. 4:1)

7. Live with a conscious awareness of who you represent.

B. I have been given a mission.

1. They are sent on an assigned mission.
2. Embassies are called missions.

Jesus prayed, ***“As you have sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.” (John 17:18)***

3. Jesus was on a mission.
4. We are not tourists and we are not on vacation; we are on mission.
 - To tell people the gospel.
 - To model Jesus' life.

“I don't care about my own life. The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me, to tell people the Good News about God's love.” (Acts 20:24, NCV)

At the end of Paul's life he could say, ***“I have fought the good fight, kept the faith, and finished the race.”***

Is that your testimony?

C. I have been given authority to speak.

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.’¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

1. Jesus has all authority; therefore He commissions us with His authority for a mission.
2. This authority was given to every disciple, not just pastors and missionaries.

***NOTE** From the beginning of our government, it empowered ambassadors to negotiate (John Adams, Ben Franklin). They were given authority to work out treaties. Governments have officers called ministers. We use the term to describe their job as “foreign ministers (Prime Minister). In the US we use the word “secretary.” We are really authorized “foreign ministers.”

D. I serve in a foreign country.

“If you call God your Father, live your time as temporary residents on earth.” (1 Peter 1:17, GN)

1. Most ambassadors don't buy homes; they lease or rent them.
2. They have short-term assignments.
3. Don't get too comfortable with this life.

“...all that other people think about is life here on earth, but we are citizens of heaven where the Lord Jesus Christ lives.” (Philippians 3:19-20, NLT)

II. What are my responsibilities as an ambassador?

Following spiritual birth why doesn't Jesus just take us right to heaven? Only two things we can't do in heaven: Sin & share our faith. Which of the two do you think Jesus left us to do?

A. I must be an example.

“People who do not believe are living all around you and might say you are doing wrong. So live such good lives that they will see the good things you do and will give glory to God...” (1 Peter 2:12, NCV)

1. You are never off duty.
2. People are watching your life and you are always representing your country.
3. As a Christian you are a Bible or a liable.
4. What does your life say about God?

B. I must share the message.

“God was in Christ, making peace between the world and himself. In Christ, God did not hold the world guilty of its sins. And He gave us this message of peace. So we have been sent to speak for Christ. It is as if God is calling to you through us. We speak for Christ when we beg you to be at peace with God. Christ had no sin, but God made Him become sin so that in Christ we could become right with God. We are workers together with God...” (2 Cor. 5:19-6:1, NCV)

1. Jesus offers everyone new birth who does not wish they could get a fresh start.
2. Jesus offers peace to our war with Him. We all are filled with pride – the child of sin. That rebellion puts me at war with God. How? The conflict of you being God in your life as opposed to God being God.
3. God became flesh and became the sacrifice for sin. He died as a sacrificial lamb.
4. We have good news, “The message of peace.”
5. We speak life to a dead world. Christ is life. On the authority of God’s word as an ambassador I can offer to anyone God’s promise. I can speak on behalf of God.

C. I must show love.

How?

1. By using my life to meet other people’s needs.

“We love you so much, that we gave you not only God’s good news, but our own lives too.” (1 Thess. 2:8, NLT)

2. By giving respect and appreciation.

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; ¹⁶ having a good conscience, that when they defame

you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.” (1 Peter 3:15-16)

They are careful what they say, because their goal is to reconcile. To represent the nation they are firm, with compromise but with grace.

3. They extend the olive branch.

“Whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him. I do this to get the Good News to them and also for the blessing I myself receive when I see them come to Christ.” (1 Cor. 9:22-23, LB)

If I believed politics could change our world, I would run for office. I don't believe it will. I know when the broken man is put back together his world is right. Only Jesus can change a human heart. You can't make a law for man to be good and see them change it.

We are more into building walls than bridges, but we are to be bridge builders!

III. What are the rewards for the ambassador?

“Whatever you do, always work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for people. Remember that the Lord will give you as a reward the inheritance He has kept for His people. For Christ is the real master you serve!” (Col. 3:23-24, NCV)

1. God has some big plans for His children.

READ PAGES 48B AND 49A FROM THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE

2. No one can be perfectly happy here on earth because we are not supposed to be. God continually allows trials, testing, troubles, etc. Why? Because He does not want us to get comfortable here – this is not our home.

3. We were created for so much more. We will have happy moments here, but nothing compared to what God has prepared for us in heaven for eternity.

At death you don't leave home; you go home!!