

## **We are Ambassadors**

**(Sharing Your Faith: Being a Witness and Ambassador for Christ in the World)**

### **2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

**An ambassador is a respected official acting as a representative of a nation. Sent to a foreign land, the ambassador's role is to reflect the official position of the sovereign body that gave him authority.**

#### **A. Sharing the new perspective v. 16**

1. **We view from a heavenly perspective-** Here Paul is saying we no longer view people from a fleshly or worldly view (age, gender, body type, earthly circumstances) but from a heavenly perspective.
2. **We view Jesus from a heavenly perspective-** Many (including Paul himself at one time) viewed Jesus as just a regular Jewish man who did good works rather than Lord and the risen savior of the world.
3. **We view life from a heavenly perspective-** As Christians we have to begin to see things from a spiritual reality. And when it comes to sharing our faith, we recognize that many people in our families, friend groups, communities, schools etc... have never known our risen savior and may never experience knowing Jesus our Lord or knowing the fact that there is something greater beyond this life that God has prepared. This is an intimate knowledge where you receive this news with Joy and worship and so you dedicate your life in service to this great and wonderful God.

#### **B. Sharing the new creation v. 17**

1. The word new here is "kainos" which means something fresh, new, unused.
2. properly, new in quality (innovation), fresh in development or opportunity – because "not found exactly like this before."
3. In some contexts, it is superior to the old.
4. In Christ the person is not just new but better. Your identity is tied to your new person, it affects how you think, your desires, even how your emotions drive you. You are no longer who you once were because the old has passed away.

#### **C. Sharing the message of reconciliation v. 18-19**

1. This newness comes from God who reconciled (restoration to favor) to himself through what Jesus did when he died on the cross and resurrected from the grave.
2. Biblical reconciliation is the process of two previously alienated parties coming to peace with each other. Usually when two parties reconcile there is an agreement between the two. You and I were alienated from God because of our sin. Our sin guarantees a feeling of guilt that we deserve eternal separation from God. God agreed to send his son Jesus to die the penalty

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of our sin. We accepted what Jesus did for us as a gift from God receiving him as savior and now, we are on good terms with God and can have a relationship with God. We have been reconciled.

3. Now that we have experienced this reconciliation, we give our service telling others to be reconciled to God. We are telling others hey! Here is what we know as truth so come experience what we have experienced. God has appointed us to do this because he wants to bring the world to himself.

#### **D. Sharing this as Ambassadors v. 20-21**

1. An ambassador is a respected official acting as a representative of a nation. Sent to a foreign land, the ambassador's role is to reflect the official position of the sovereign body that gave him authority.
2. Christians are God's ambassadors in that they have been "approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel". As we go through this world, we represent another Kingdom, and it is our responsibility to reflect the "official position" of heaven. We come of his behalf not our own
3. The message we bring is clear- Jesus took on the punishment of sin on our behalf so that we wouldn't have to. In exchange for our sins Jesus offers us his righteousness. When we receive this righteousness, we are seen as right in God's eyes. Not because of any good deeds we have done but because Jesus is our substitutionary atonement. This process is called imputation.
4. Imputation- To impute is to credit something to the account of another.
5. Atonement - To atone is to suffer the penalty for sins, thereby removing the effects of sin from the repentant sinner and allowing him or her to be reconciled to God. Jesus Christ was the only one capable of carrying out the Atonement for all mankind.
6. We proclaim that as ambassadors that Jesus atoned our sin so he could also impute to us his righteousness. With this we are seen as right in God's eyes and are considered his child and therefore saved to heaven and can experience a relationship with God as this new creation.

#### **E. As Ambassadors**

1. We have been "approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel" (1 Thessalonians 2:4)
2. As we go through this world, we represent another Kingdom (John 18:36)
3. We are in this world, but not of it (John 17:16).

#### **F. An ambassador is stationed at an embassy**

1. An embassy is considered "foreign soil," meaning that it operates under the jurisdiction and laws of the home country, not the host country (the country where the embassy is physically located).
2. Even though earth is not our home and earth is foreign soil we still operate under the authority of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. We are here to do the mission of the Kingdom which is to tell others to be reconciled to God.

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3. So, we should not be afraid or lose hope because we have the authority of God to express the views of the heavenly kingdom and proclaim this glorious gospel of reconciliation.

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