

2 Cor 5:11-21  
"Christ's Ambassador" Part II

An ambassador is the President's highest-ranking representative to a specific nation or international organization abroad. He or she carries the President's agenda. Other responsibilities include ensuring the security of their state citizens living in the receiving country, building, and maintaining strong diplomatic and economic ties with foreign nations, and administering all the affairs of the embassy. The role of ambassador is critical to the affairs of the United States and the sitting President. As such, it is a very sought-after position. One that carries prestige and garners much respect for those who have the honor of serving in the role. We are Christ's ambassadors and our effectiveness and faithfulness to the duties and responsibilities of that role are critical to the viability of the kingdom of God here on earth. When the message of Jesus Christ goes forward it is because we carry it forward. If it does not, it is because we have not carried it forward. Last Sunday I shared the following: first, this role is to be taken very, very seriously, verse 11. Second, as Christ's ambassadors we must be willing to risk our reputations, verses 13-14a. Third, as Christ's ambassadors we no longer live for self, 14b-15. With this said, today, as promised, I want to highlight the other three things regarding this role of ours.

**Fourth, as Christ's ambassadors we have a new outlook. V16-17** <sup>16</sup>So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! <sup>17</sup>This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person.

The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” We no longer view others and life in the way we did prior to our coming to Christ. As matter of fact, we no longer see ourselves the same. We have been changed. We think differently, we see things differently, we respond to things differently, and we speak differently. Simply stated, we live differently. We now know that there is more than meets the eye regarding every person created by God and every situation we face as God’s people. And so, we do not make the same mistake the people of Jesus’s day made in their dealings with him, solely based on what they could see. Thru faith in God’s Son, Jesus, we are made new and so we approach life with a new outlook.

**Romans 6:4** “<sup>4</sup>For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.”

**Gal 2:20** “<sup>20</sup>My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

**1 Peter 2:9** “<sup>9</sup>But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.”

**Fifth, as Christ’s ambassador the aim is clear, reconciliation.**

**V18-19** “<sup>18</sup>Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, <sup>19</sup>that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has

committed to us the word of reconciliation.” There should be no question regarding the aim of ministry. And yet I find that the church seems confused about this matter. Reconciliation! This is the aim, the desired outcome of ministry. How much more forceful or clear could Paul be. What is reconciliation? In the Greek the word is *katallagē* and it means the restoration of the favour of God to sinners that repent and put their trust in the atoning death of Christ. Reconciliation, this is the aim!

**Romans 5:10-11** “<sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”

**Romans 3:21-26** “<sup>21</sup>But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. <sup>22</sup>We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. <sup>23</sup>For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. <sup>24</sup>Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. <sup>25</sup>For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, <sup>26</sup>for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for

he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.”

**Sixth and finally, the message is the gospel.** The aim is reconciliation and the message that leads to that is the gospel of Jesus Christ. Church, the message we carry is not that of the Republican party, nor the Democratic party, nor LGBTQIA movement, nor the BLM movement, nor the QAnon movement, or any other organization or group we could possibly name. The message is the gospel of Jesus Christ and Paul sums it up beautifully here. **V20b-21** “we implore *you* on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” All other messages pale in comparison and their impact is superficial at best. If we truly want a better society, a more just society, a more loving society, a more welcoming society carry Christ’s message. Lift his banner. This is what we are to be doing as Christ’s ambassadors. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.