

Christ's Ambassadors

(How to share the Gospel - both with words and deeds, testimony)

2 Cor 5:11-6:2

Ambassador

- *an accredited diplomat sent by a country as its official representative to a foreign country.*
- *a person who acts as a representative or promoter of a specified activity.*
Wikipedia
- *based on Latin ambactus 'servant'.*
- *purposes - protect citizens; support prosperity; work for peace*
- *Ambassadors now normally live overseas or within the country to which it is assigned for long periods of time so that they are acquainted with the culture and local people. This way they are more politically effective and trusted, enabling them to accomplish goals that their host country desires.*

We as Christians are ambassadors of our HOME - Heaven and of our Lord Jesus. Where ever we go, we are to represent Him.

As such we should take to heart what Col 4:5 (NLT) says...

Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity.

In our 2 Cor passage there are several powerful words throughout...

- vs 11 - persuade
- vs 14 - compels, convinced
- vs 18 & 19 - reconciliation
- vs 20 - ambassadors; appeal; implore
- vs 6:1 - fellow workers; urge

Living on Mission = living Sent.

What can I do to lead others to Christ?

1. You have to be convinced that Christ is the ONLY way! (vs 14)

- Rom 1:16 - *For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes(NLT)*
- Acts 4:12 - *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.*
- 1 John 5:12 - *Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

2. Live as a new creation, throw away the old. (vs 17)
 - 1 Pet 2:11-12 - *Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.*
 - Gal 2:20 - *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.*
3. God has com-missioned us to share the Good News with others. (vs 18-19)
 - Matt 28:18-20 - *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, -or- As you are Going...*
 - Acts 1:8 - *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*
4. We must be Christ's ambassadors who GO into the world as His representatives. (vs 20)
 - Acts 1:8 - *you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*
 - Matt 9:35-38 - *Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field."*
(Jesus saw people; had compassion for; and meet their needs.)

Some Helpful ways to become an ambassador...

5 ways that I can lead others towards Jesus

1. My Life - the way I live, the things that I do or don't do, how I act and react.
2. My Testimony - the story of how I began a relationship with Jesus.
3. My Life Lessons - the most important lessons God has taught me.
4. My passions - those things God has shaped me to care about most.
5. The Good News - the message of salvation.

The GOSPEL (Dare 2 Share Ministries)

God created us to be with Him. (Gen 1:26)

Our sin separates us from God. (Gen 6:5-6)

Sin can not be removed by good deeds. (Titus 3:5)

Paying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again. (1 Cor 15:3-4)

Everyone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life. (John 6:47)

Life that's eternal means we will be with Jesus forever. (Rev. 22:5)

Do what Jesus Did (Matt 9:35-38)

He did these things everywhere He went.

*He SAW people; He looked into them to see who they were; where they were and who they could be. He saw where they were spiritually. (missionary glasses)

*He HAD compassion for people; He loved them no matter what; He sought people out; He gave them purpose and meaning

*He MET the needs of people; He fed them and gave them drink; He gave comfort, council; and equipped them with everything they would need to reach a lost world with His love.

Pray

*Matt 9:38 - The harvest is plentiful and ready - pray for more workers.

*Ask God to use our whole church, in fresh new ways, to impact our communities with the gospel. Invite the Holy Spirit to fill our church with love as He loves.

*Pray that God would open your eyes to SEE people as He does, to HAVE compassion for them, and to MEET their needs.

The One Degree Rule

(1) Ice Cold ————— (10) Sizzling Hot

Doesn't matter what the starting number is.

The purpose is to commit to raise that number by 1 degree!

Proximity

We need to be committed to make time, on a regular basis, to be with family, friends and neighbors who are far from God.

We need to seek opportunities to get close to those far from God.

Stories

We need to regularly share our stories with each other and with those who are not yet a part of the body.

REACHING OUT WITH MISSION



WE ARE CALLED TO MISSION



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Where have we been?

- You Give Them Something to Eat.
- You can do it. We can help.
- Getting in the Game.
- Neighboring.
- Relearning to Listen.



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TODAY - Christ's Ambassadors



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REACHING OUT WITH MISSION



WE ARE CALLED TO MISSION

Ambassador = Latin Ambactus = “servant”

2 Cor 5:20

“We are therefore **Christ’s ambassadors**, as though God were making His **appeal** through us. We **implore** you on Christ’s behalf: Be **reconciled** to God.”



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A diplomat; a representative; a promoter.

Purposes - protect citizens; support prosperity; work for peace.



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Now days... an ambassador lives in a country not their own - this way they can be acquainted with culture and local people - in doing so they become more effective and trusted.



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and of our Lord Jesus!**



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Col 4:5

“Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the **most of every opportunity.**”



2 Cor 5:11-6:2

“Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to **persuade** others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart.



2 Cor 5:11-6:2

If we are “out of our mind,” as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For Christ’s love **compels** us, because we are **convinced** that One died for all, and therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him Who died for them and was raised again.”



2 Cor 5:11-6:2

“So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, Who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of **reconciliation**: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s **ambassadors**, as though God were making His **appeal** through us.



2 Cor 5:11-6:2

We **implore** you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made Him Who had no sin to sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. As God's **co-workers** we **urge** you not to receive God's grace in vain. For He says, "In the time of My favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation."



Living on Mission = Living Sent



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APPLICATIONS:

Some helpful ways to become an ambassador...

1. 5 ways that I can lead others towards Jesus

- My Life
- My Testimony
- My Life Lessons
- My Passions
- The Good News



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- **L**ife that's eternal means we will be with Jesus forever. (*Rev. 22:5*)



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 - He **HAD** compassion for people.
 - He **MET** the needs of people.



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1. Pray

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- Ask God to use our whole church to impact our communities with the Gospel.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to fill us with the Love as He loves.
- Pray that God will open your eyes to **SEE** people as He does, to **HAVE** compassion and **MEET** their needs.



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QUESTIONS. COMMENTS. TESTIMONIES.

1. How has this sermon challenged you to see mission differently?
2. What's a “**ambassador moment**” you've experienced recently?
3. What are some of the **barriers** you've experienced that have made it difficult to be an ambassador, and how did you overcome them?
4. What's **one thing you could attempt this week** to become an ambassador?
5. What **questions** do you still have on this topic?



COMMISSIONING

