

Ambassadors of Christ (2)

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Ambassador

- Ambassador
 - A person who represents his country of origin, in place of the president or leader protecting the country's interest.
- Paul identifies himself as an ambassador
 - Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an **ambassador** in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should (Ephesians 6:19-20).
 - 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 (2 Corinthians 5:20).

Ambassadors: Dual Citizenship

- Ambassadors on earth
 - But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:20).
 - Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household (Ephesians 2:19).
 - I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul (1 Peter 2:11).
- Responsibilities of ambassadors
 - Ambassadors are citizens of the heavenly country although living temporarily as citizens of an earthly country. They are like foreigners or expatriates in another country.
 - Ambassadors are spiritually citizens of heaven, awaiting Jesus Christ as their Savior.
 - Ambassadors are called to live by heavenly principles, values, and laws, representing God's Kingdom on Earth.
 - This identity provides hope, purpose, and an eternal focus, transcending earthly troubles and limitations.

We are Christian Ambassadors

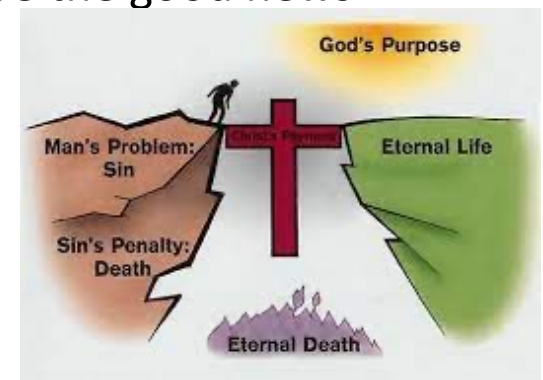
- Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ....” (2 Corinthians 5:20).
 - A Christian ambassador is a messenger/representative of the Lord who is sent to represent Him to make known the will of God. The ambassador is on divine business.
 - The Christian ambassador does not go in his own name, or in the name of any church or in the name of any earthly power, but he goes in the name of Him who made heaven and earth. The power of an ambassador comes from God, he has no power of his own.
- Question 1
 - Whom do you represent? Christ or you? Are you commissioned to represent God? Are you living for your own self-interests, or living for Him?

God calls you to be an Ambassador

- Who are Christ's ambassadors?
 - 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 (2 Corinthians 5:17-18).
- The new person
 - An ambassador for Christ should be a born again Christian.
 - One must be a citizen of heaven to represent Christ upon the earth.
 - If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come...(1 Corinthians 5:17).
- Knowing the ministry of reconciliation
 - One must acknowledge and act upon the appointment as Christ's ambassador.
 - God asks ambassadors to implement the ministry of reconciliation.

The Ministry of Reconciliation

- We are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, **be reconciled to God** (2 Corinthians 5:20).
- God desires man to be reconciled to Him, so there is peace between the rebellious sinner and Himself. God sent His only Son to be the reconciling agent, the Ultimate Ambassador, from Heaven to His enemies upon the earth.
- Our reconciliation is based on the salvation Jesus provides and accepted by faith.
- Now, God has made us to become His ambassadors who declare the good news of reconciliation to the rest of the world.



Where does Christ's Ambassador serve?

- Everywhere God sent
 - Everywhere we presently are. Paul was an ambassador, even when he was in prison.
 - I am an ambassador in chains (Ephesians 6:19-20).
- A Messenger must have a divine call, so these people had definite divine calls.
 - God to **Abraham**: Go from your country...the land I will show you (Genesis 12:1).
 - God to **Moses**: So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh... (Exodus 3:10).
 - God to **Isaiah**: "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8).
 - God to **Paul**: Now get up and stand on your feet...You as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me (Acts 26: 16).
 - Jesus to **you**: Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28: 19-20).

Ambassadors in the Bible (examples)

- Moses
 - This is how you will know that the LORD has **sent me** to do all these things (Numbers 16:28).
- Isaiah
 - And now the Sovereign LORD has **sent me**, endowed with his Spirit (Isaiah 48:16).
- Jeremiah
 - And though the LORD has **sent** all his servants the prophets to you again and again, you have not listened or paid any attention (Jeremiah 25:4).
- John the Baptist
 - There was a man **sent** from God whose name was John (John 1:6).
- Jesus
 - For God did not **send** His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved (John 3:17).

Where does Christ's Ambassador serve?

- A lifelong calling
 - A lifelong calling to be a living example of God's love and reconciliation to the world
 - There is never a time or place when Christ's ambassadors cease to be an ambassador!
 - Once having become an ambassador through the new birth, one is an ambassador until death!
- Core aspects of lifetime ambassadorship
 - Ministry doesn't end at a certain age; every day offers a chance to represent Christ.
 - Ambassadors are a representative of God's eternal kingdom, not your own earthly one, requiring self-sacrifice.
 - The life, character (love, patience, kindness), and actions should consistently reflect Jesus's teachings, serving as a living Bible for others.
 - Ambassadors carry the message of hope and salvation, inviting people to be reconciled to God.

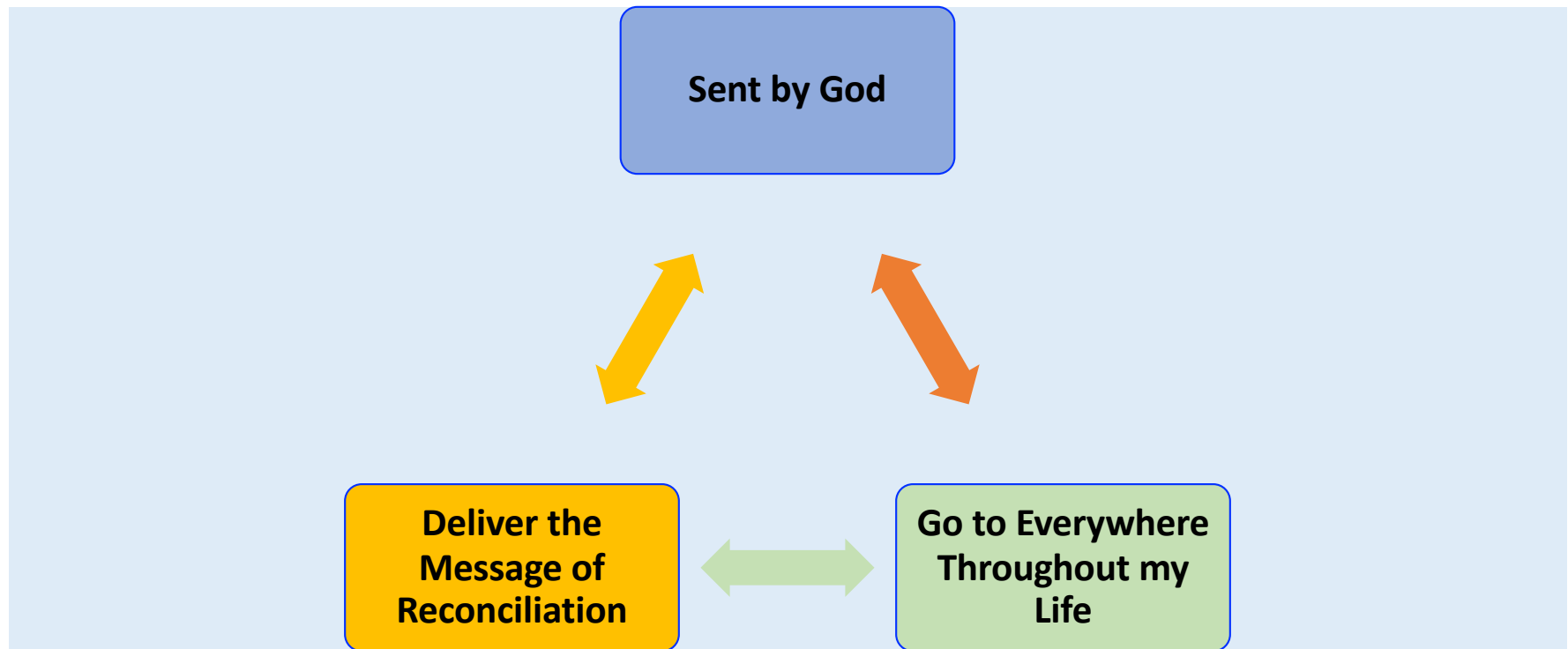
Why is an ambassador needed?

- Because a spiritual battle is going on.
 - The rebellious attitude and activity by men against God began in the Garden of Eden. Consequently, the Scriptures repeatedly picture us as enemies of God. An adversarial relationship existed since.
 - Now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things (Philippians 3:18-19).
 - There is a war between two countries, and the leader of one country wants to bring the conflict to an end by sending an ambassador to deliver the grounds for peace.
 - God took the initiative and came to the world of sinners to effect peace. Jesus came as the Ambassador to make a way for His enemies to come back to God. Through His sacrificial atonement Jesus Christ brought men and God together again. God has been reconciled and has demonstrated His love to the lost world.

Why God Needs Ambassadors

- To spread the message of reconciliation
 - God has reconciled believers to Himself through Jesus and has entrusted them with the "ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18-20) to call others to be reconciled to Him.
- To represent His kingdom
 - Christians are citizens of heaven, not primarily of this world; they must live as aliens and representatives of God's Kingdom, reflecting its values.
- To show (not just tell)
 - As "incarnational" representatives, their actions, character, and words must embody Christ's teachings (humility, love, integrity) to make God's appeal tangible.
- To be God's voice and appeal
 - God makes His appeal to the world through His ambassadors, using them to persuade people to come to Him.
- To bring hope and transformation
 - By living transformed lives, they offer hope and demonstrate that a new life in Christ is possible, creating a ripple effect of positive change.
- To fulfill the Great Commission
 - They are part of the mission to go and make disciples of all nations, pointing people to Jesus.

God's Ambassador Model



Questions 2

- Am I really able to be an ambassador for God? What does it mean to react as an ambassador for God?
- How do I equip with qualifications to be an effective God's ambassador?