

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN? *AN AMBASSADOR*

2CO. 5²⁰ 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.²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Eph 6¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Paul points out that "we" are Christ's ambassadors. What do this imply? Let's examine more closely role of the ambassador.

I. THE **COMMISSION** OF AN AMBASSADOR

A. They represent their country in a foreign country.

1. They have full authority to act but only as they have been authorized.

John 5¹⁹ Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

2. An ambassador is not permitted to speak his own views.

He can only speak what he has been told.

John 14 10.... The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.¹

3. He does not take rejection personally.

He is accepted or rejected not on his own merit but because of whom he represents.

1Sam. 8⁷ And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.

B. He represents the **head of state**

We represent the King of Kings.

C. An ambassador is not elected, but **appointed**.

D. An ambassador is a **foreigner**.

We are citizens of heaven and our loyalty is where our

¹*The Holy Bible : New International Version*. 1996, c1984 (Jn 14:10-11). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

citizenship is.

We are temporary residents here. We have no real investments here.

II. THE **CONDUCT** OF AN AMBASSADOR

A. He must serve with **humility**.

A member of the diplomatic community realizes his extreme vulnerability as a minority member of a majority alien culture. Whether we like it or not, that role fits all of us. In such a position, a diplomat must be circumspect in all his words and activities, careful not to offend his hosts or bring disrepute upon his homeland.

B. He is to be **hospitable**.

Welcoming, friendly, warm, open, sociable

C. He is to be **gracious in his speech**

James 1 19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

He emphasizes what we agree upon.

He de-emphasizes the things we disagree upon.

Keeping our mouth shut is sometimes the most diplomatic behavior.

Amos 5 13 Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time; for it is an evil time.

III. THE **COMMUNICATION** OF THE AMBASSADOR

A. We are making **appeal for God**

2Co. 5 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

B. The appeal is be **RECONCILED** to God. v-20

To be reconciled means to "restore to friendship, to resolve differences".

C. The **way** for reconciliation has already been made by Christ.

²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Our message must not change!

IV. AN AMBASSADOR IS RECALLED BEFORE WAR IS DECLARED.

2Thes. 2:1-12 States that we are holding back the “anti-christ”.
When we are called home then the war begins!
Are you living up to your title, Ambassador?