

JESUS HAS MADE US HIS AMBASSADORS TO THE WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-21

As Ambassadors for Christ, what should motivate our service of Christ?

We should be moved by a fear of God, which pushes aside our fear of others.

^[11] Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. ^[12] We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. ^[13] For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

We should be moved by the love of Christ, which compels us to now live for Him.

^[14] For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ^[15] and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

As Ambassadors for Christ, how should we regard all others?

We should not regard others the way the world does, but as Christ does.

^[16] From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ^[17] Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

As Ambassadors for Christ, how should we understand our assignment?

We have been entrusted to pass on a message of reconciliation.

^[18] All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ^[19] that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

We should view our task with seriousness and enthusiasm.

^[20] Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ^[21] For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (ESV)

TRANSFORMED

Christ Has Made Us His Ambassadors To The World

August 8, 2021

Open: Share about an experience where you acted as a representative for another person or group of people. What, if anything, made it difficult? What was gained through your efforts?

Read & Discuss: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

1. Why would “knowing the fear of the Lord” motivate Paul to “persuade others” of the Gospel? (*See also v. 10*). To what degree does this motivate you to share the Gospel? Why?
2. In verse 12 Paul says “we are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us.” Given the context, how would you summarize the reason Paul has given them to commend, affirm or have confidence in him more than the false teachers in their midst?
3. Why does Paul say in verse 13, “if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; and if we are in our right mind, it is for you”? How concerned should we be about what unbelievers think of us?
4. Paul says that “the love of Christ controls us” (v. 14). How does Christ’s love influence your life? How would you explain to a new believer what it means to live for Christ (v. 15)?
5. What is an example of regarding someone according to the flesh (v. 16)? How should our faith in Christ affect how we see others? According to verse 17, how should faith in Christ affect the way we see ourselves?
6. What are some synonyms for “reconciliation” (v. 18)? How might you help reconcile two friends of yours who are in conflict? How is reconciling people with God similar or different?
7. How is “ambassador” (v. 20) an appropriate description of our role as believers? How does God make His appeal through us? (*See Romans 10:14-15.*) What would you need, if anything, to feel adequately equipped to be an ambassador for Christ?
8. In verse 21, Paul says that it was for our sake that God sent Christ to the cross. How might that truth shape our representation of God to the world? What are some practical ways we can incorporate that truth into how we share the gospel with others?

Apply: Where has God given you opportunity to influence others? How could you influence others in a Christ-centered way?

Pray: Pray for one another that God would enable each of us to be influencing others for the sake of Christ. Ask God to empower us as we carry this Gospel message to a world in great need.

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

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