



*Brotherhood
In
Jesus Christ*

Bible Studies

*What is a true
Ambassador for
Christ?*

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Who is a true Ambassador for Christ?

What is an ambassador? An ambassador is a person who is sent to represent the interests of his country to another nation. His job is to report back the interest of the nation to which he has been sent. His personality and character play an important role in making the views of his government understood amongst to the other nation. His duty in this highest diplomatic position is to obey instructions. An Ambassador of Christ represents` our Creators message and fulfills thereby the mission Christ gave to his disciples in Matthew 28:18-20.

Reputation precedes selection!

Ambassadors are chosen for their reputation. In the political as well as in the spiritual field these principles are just as important today as they were in Paul's time. In 1 Tim. 3:7 and in 1 Cor. 10:32 we are told that an ambassador representing the gospel of Christ must also have a good report from outsiders; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. And "give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God." In other words an Ambassador must act in a very diplomatic way.

Apostle Paul writes to this in 1Cor: 9:19-23:

"For though I am free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. Unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews. To them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law. To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you."

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do evil. And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear (1 Pt: 3:8-15).

In other words Paul tells us here that the life of a true Christian representative includes character trades of trustworthiness, discipline and restraint.

Important principles for ministry are:

1. To tell others about Jesus Christ's saving power and grace and His message of salvation.
2. To make others feel accepted and respect their choices.
3. To find common ground with those you contact.
4. To be hospitable, sober, just and temperate, not self willed or soon angry.
5. To be sensitive to people's needs and concerns.
6. Remain firm to the word of God. Make no compromises to please people
7. To avoid contentions or strivings about words to no profit. And avoid foolish questions, contentions and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain (2 Tim. 2:14 & Ti: 3:9).

For the main goal is to glorify God and lead people to Jesus Christ. He avoided any worldly philosophical position or material entanglement that could sidetrack him from his aim to lead people to Christ. The essential disciplines are found in prayer, Bible study and worship.

A Christian ambassador is one that is sent to represent Jesus Christ. (See Mat. 28:19-20) It is a privilege to be a servant, but still a greater privilege to be a friend. A man's servant may not always be his friend. A servant is hired, but a friend is made by voluntary choice. Friends can not be purchased with money! Are you serving Christ only for monetary gain? What are you? Are you a servant or friend to Jesus Christ? It is enough for a servant to obey, but a friend has the hidden things revealed to him (1Cor. 2:10). -

The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him; and He will show them His covenant (Ps: 25:14). The hireling can not receive the Holy Ghost just because he is a hireling and so God's Holy Spirit does not reveal the hidden things to him. Therefore a true ambassador for Christ must be a friend who loves Jesus Christ. He is a diplomat and his words are fitly spoken like apples of gold in pictures of silver (Prv: 25:11). He keeps his guard up and keeps his life: but he that opens wide his lips shall have destruction (Prv: 13:3). A true ambassador is not afraid to stand firm to the truth. And to them Jesus declares: "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knows not what his lord does: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of My Father I have made known unto you (Jn: 15:14-15).

A true ambassador for Christ,

acts as a friend, proclaims the kingdom of God, builds fellowships and functions as a servant in kindness and care for the wellbeing of others. He is not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares (Heb: 13:2). For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but with love serve one another (Gal: 5:13). - For Christ has delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: (Col: 1:13-15). Knowing that of the Lord we shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for we serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong, which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons. (Col: 3:24-25)

An ambassador for Christ is reconciled to God and becomes the representative of an entity or nation that is not

faith. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye are not consumed one of another (Gal: 5:15).

An Ambassadors directives are

To preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time has come where the people will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears (2 Tm: 4:2-4). He has to set the example for the brethren to follow. His actions and interactions with people reveal the true character and intent of his heart whether it is full of compassion and love. Just like a tree's leaf reveals the character trades of the tree it originated from.

In conclusion

The general admonition for a servant of Jesus Christ is to walk in the Spirit, and not fulfil the lust of the flesh, because the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh. For these are contrary the one another: so that we cannot do the things that we would (Gal: 5:16-17). Knowing that the Lord will deliver us from every evil work, and will preserve us unto His heavenly kingdom (2 Tm: 4:18).

And 1 Peter 3:8-15 tells us: Finally, brethren, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love the brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that

every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, we will hear thee again of this matter. (Acts: 17:22-32)

This is a good example of a faithful messenger (Prv: 13:17). God had started a project and sent help to finish it. It shows us that God will help all that want to grow in grace and understanding until He has completed His work in our life. So remember not to become discouraged if you feel helpless, distressed or incomplete in your present understanding of Christ's will. He promised to help you grow closer to Him even in difficult times.

e) **Ambassadors serves the Lord without fear.** They boldly proclaim the mystery of the gospel in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life in a powerful and encouraging way (Eph. 6:19-20 and Lk: 1:75). Apostle Paul writes in Heb: 12:28 "Let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." He went into the synagogue, and spoke boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God (Acts: 19:8). Knowing that of the Lord we shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for we serve the Lord Christ. But he that does wrong shall receive for the wrong, which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons. (Col: 3:24-25). For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds by Christ (2 Cor. 1: 5). - We likewise will have to endure sufferings and must not allow burdens to crush our faith, but it helps to shape and strengthen us in our

of this present world, but of the kingdom of Christ that is yet to come (1 Pt: 2:9). Which requires a change of mind and spirit from worldly understanding to spiritual understanding? We are therefore ambassadors for Christ, as though God is making His appeal through us. Therefore we implore you on Christ's behalf: be ye reconciled to God (2 Cor: 5:20). We maintain the faith in the word of God and recognize His power and trust Him. - The functions as a servant include the practice of hospitality. He is careful to give no offence in any thing, that his ministry can not be blamed. In all things he has to approve himself as the minister of God with much patience, knowledge, pureness, with kindness and love by the Holy Ghost. He remains steadfast in afflictions, distress and necessities and surrounds himself with the armour of righteousness, the power of God (2 Cor: 6:3-4, 6-7).

a. **Every Christian is called as an ambassador** of God that is conformed to the image of His Son (Rom. 8: 29). Our work as representatives is to proclaim the gospel in Christ's stead (2 Cor. 5:20). And in regards to our character and behaviour we find a well-tempered example in Paul's letter in Philippians 4:11 where he said: "I have learned in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content." Those easily discouraged have not been well tempered. Paul says "It was good for me that I was afflicted" (Ps. 119:71). He must always be careful to remain sober, vigilant and resist afflictions; because our adversary the devil walks about as a roaring lion searching who he may be able to destroy. Peter warns us to always remain alert when we experience difficulties or persecution. Let's not focus on our troubles when isolated or separated from other believers and forget the deceptions of Satan that require a steadfast resistance in the faith. If we keep our focus on Jesus Christ we resist the devils influence.

For we know that the same afflictions have to be faced by our brethren that are in the world to whom we are sent (1 Pt: 5:8-9).

- b. **An ambassador avoids offending** those that are weak in faith. Like for example the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols. Or those that eat vegetarian food only. We know that there is only one God. We also know that an idol is phony, its worship meaningless and the fact that eating meat offered to idols can not defile a person, but not every man has that knowledge (1Cor: 8:4). Paul addresses this situation because some people's conscience is bothered by pagan practices and when they see some eat a thing that was offered unto an idol they feel defiled. But meat commends us not to God. For we know that if one eats or eats not any meat, we neither become any better nor worse. But Paul said therefore that it is better not to use our knowledge and liberty and create a stumbling-block to them that are weak in the faith. Why should through our knowledge the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? Therefore, if meat offends my brother, I will eat no flesh (1Cor: 8:7-13). In our modern society we may also find people that consider dancing, TV watching, drinking of coffee, tee and alcohol beverages to be an offense. New believers can be quite sensitive to what they think is right or wrong in their belief. That is why an ambassador for Christ has to be extra careful in presenting Christ's message to others. Christian freedom does not mean that the feelings of others can be trampled on, but need to be put into consideration. For our salvation and freedom is not dependent on good deeds and legalistic rules of ourselves, but by the gift of God's grace and power (Eph. 2:8-9).
- c. **An ambassador does not conform.** He does not swerve from the principles as set out in the scriptures,

but stays with the truth. His conversation is according to the gospel of Christ. That whether he comes to see you, or is absent, his affairs remain in the same spirit and mindset. He proclaims and stands up for the faith of the gospel, confident that God who has begun a good work in us will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ (Phil: 1:6, 27).

- d. **An ambassador does not compromise** or allow himself to be placed in delicate situations, but always remain diplomatic and seeking to please that we might save some. An example we find with Apostle Paul when he stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwells not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he gives to all life, and breath, and all things; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he gives to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commands all men