

Lifeline Bible Church Bible Study Outline



Ambassadors FOR CHRIST



2Cor.5: 20-21

An Ambassador Is a Diplomat of the highest rank who is the Official Representative and Messenger of his/her home country in another country.

Every country or kingdom differs from the others in many ways e.g. their kings, language, laws, food, dressing, tradition, culture, practices, etc

As Christians, we are Ambassadors for Christ; heaven is our home and Jesus Christ is our Lord who has sent us with a message to the world. A Christian therefore is God's Diplomat of the highest ranking bringing His message to the world and representing His kingdom here on earth. As Ambassadors for Christ, although, we live in the world, we are not of the world.

An Ambassador is a stranger where he lives and so does not bother about the happenings around him and does not allow such to affect or influence him.

An Ambassador promotes the beliefs, culture and tradition of his home country wherever he lives. As Christians, we are to teach and promote Scriptural practices wherever we are found - Matt.6: 10. As Ambassadors for Christ, we are not to represent our own interests but Christ's. Also, we are not to preach or teach any message of our own but that of Christ.

An Ambassador must understand his country origin very well in order to represent her properly. He must not say or do anything that will embarrass his home country. He must be in constant in touch with home and regularly relays messages from there.

Some of God's Ambassadors and Messengers in the Past:

1. Moses – Num.16: 28
2. Isaiah – Isa.48: 16
3. Jeremiah – Jer.25: 4
4. Zechariah – Zech.2: 8; 4: 9
5. The Lord Jesus Christ – Matt.22: 3; Lk.1: 19; Jn.1: 6

A Messenger must have a divine call so these people had definite divine calls e.g. Abraham (Gen.12: 1); Moses (Exod.3: 10); Elisha (1Kg.19: 19); Isaiah (Isa.6: 8); Paul (Acts 26: 16); The Christian (Matt.22: 9; 28: 19-20).

An Ambassador is a Messenger also and a messenger must have a message. An ambassador without a message has no purpose – 2Cor.5: 18-19.

Ambassadors are not allowed to express their personal opinions, even if those opinions agree with those of the King. Our message, as ambassadors, is the Word of God, not ours. We must learn as messengers to deliver the message correctly as instructed e.g. The Young Prophet – 1Kg.13: 1-32. There is punishment for every disobedient servant and messenger – Lk.12: 42-48.

An Ambassador may be recalled at any time and so must always be ready to give account of his stewardship – Lk.16: 1-2; Rom.14: 12.

Qualities of Good Ambassadors for Christ as stated by Apostle Paul: 2Cor.6: 1-18:

1. **An Ambassador must Endurance Affliction – 2Cor.6: 2.** Unlike worldly Ambassadors, Affliction NOT affluence commends the ministry of Christ's Ambassadors e.g. Noah, Job, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, John the Baptist, Jesus Christ - . The endurance of a Christian as an Ambassador in the face of affliction, suffering & trial commend

the ministry in that it encourages others to trust God and not self. We must endure slander too. A political ambassador packs up and goes home when slander comes, whether it is true or not, because his credibility is attacked but a Christian Ambassador must fare better. Slander can make us back away from what is right. An ambassador needs to know how to endure and overcome it.

2. **An Ambassador must be a Man of Character** – An Ambassador must be Christ-like in character. He must be pure, patient, kind and loving. He must be mature with abundant display of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5: 22-23); not a novice (1Tim.3: 6).
3. **An Ambassador must be Intelligent & Knowledgeable.** Being an Ambassador requires a lot of training and study. Ambassadors must have general knowledge and be well trained in Political Science, History, Economics, Etiquette, Culture, Languages, etc. He must also have the knowledge of the Word of God – 2Tim.2: 15; Tit.1: 9; 1Pet.3: 15.
4. **He must be Deeply Spiritual** – Apart from knowing the Word of God, he must be baptized in the Holy Spirit and be filled with the anointing and power of God. He must be able to use spiritual weapons to fight in spiritual warfare also – Lk.24: 49; Acts 1: 8.
5. **Ambassadors for Christ must be Open-minded – 1Cor.6: 11-13.** Not for lack of discipline but always calling for dialogue and discussion.
6. **However, an Ambassador for Christ must practice Christian Separation.** God calls us to a life of separation so openness should not degenerate into compromise and must not lead us into unequal yoke with unbelievers.
7. **An Ambassador for Christ must be Open-handed too.** He must be a cheerful giver and be given to hospitality – 2Cor.9: 7; Rom.12: 13; 1Tim.3: 2; Tit.1: 7-8; Heb.13: 1-2
8. **An Ambassador must not be timid but must be Bold and Courageous** in order to deliver his message without fear or favour – Josh.1: 6-9; 2Tim.1: 6-7, 9.

Missing Qualities (unlike secular Ambassadors) that may not be necessary:

1. **Formal Education** – The Early Church had mostly illiterates and half-educated people like their society then. Only few people like Luke, Matthew, Paul and Apollos were well educated. However, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and had sound knowledge of the word.
2. **Oration or Eloquence** – Moses and Paul were poor speakers
3. **Fame or Wealth** – Many of the disciples of Christ were not rich – 1Cor.1: 26-29.

Generally, the life of an Ambassador for Christ is his credential and the Gospel is his message. What makes people believe that the message we preach and teach is actually

from God is the way we live: Our life of purity in speech and conduct (especially in dealing with the opposite sex), honesty in handling money and material wealth, patience when wronged, kindness towards those who are helpless and ignorant and, genuine love for everyone.

Conclusion:

Imagine how frightening our shortcomings in these areas could discredit the Gospel and the Kingdom of God – Matt.5: 16; 1Tim.3: 2-7.