

# 12-EVANGELISM-05

# AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

## ***2 Cor 5:11, 14-20***

*Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men.*

*For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

*So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

*All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.*

*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.*

## Christ's Ambassadors

This is where we get the name "Chi Alpha" from.  
(Chi=Christ ; Alpha=Ambassador)

Questions-

1. What does it mean that we are Ambassadors for Christ?
2. Why do you think Paul used the word Ambassador?  
-There is a need for Peace- people must be reconciled to God.

At this point, depending on the level of your group, you may need to review the essentials of:

1. Man's rebellion and guilt before God.
2. Jesus' redemptive work on the cross
3. Salvation by Grace, through repentance and faith

A simple outline of this can be found under the Salvation Discussion study notes.

## Ambassadors For Christ

Ambassadors Know what it is to Fear the Lord (VERSE 11)      Read also Luke 9:26

Question –

1. Be honest, have you ever been afraid to witness to someone? Why?
2. Is being afraid to witness the same as being “ashamed of Jesus and His words?”

# One of the greatest hindrances to witnessing is FEAR.

Winkie Pratney gives the following help:

Fear in witnessing is created by 3 basic factors:

*(1) Inadequate training or preparation; (2) Self-consciousness from insufficient prayer or concern for the other person; (3) Fear of Rejection by the person witnessed to (including bodily harm)*

A vast load lifts off the mind when you realize there are only 5 basic attitudes a sinner can adopt when witness occurs:

**(1) Indifference** - The worst attitude!

**(2) Curiosity** - A sign of an awakened hunger for reality or further consideration.

**(3) Hesitancy** - Often a sign of sin being exposed.

**(4) Acceptance** - Usually a sign that the person has already been dealt with by the Lord for some time.

**(5) Rejection** - When the truth is fairly and fully faced, the cost counted but finally rejected.

Ambassadors Are Compelled By the Love of Christ  
(verse 14)

A. This concerns our Motive – (for God’s sake, not for our sake.)

B. And Our Method. (Read Eph 4:15 – “... speaking the truth in love...”)

-If we study How Jesus Witnessed-

-Always in :

a spirit of Humility and Compassion.

-Never :

Arrogant, never looked down on People

## Questions

1. Have you ever experienced someone “witnessing” in a way that misrepresented Christ?” Explain.

-We are representing Jesus - -have a responsibility to do it in a way that "rightly" represents Him.

2. What other characteristics of Jesus should we emulate in our witnessing?

3.) Ambassadors Regard No One from a Worldly Point of View. Christians must think eternally.

C. S. Lewis, from *The Weight of Glory* - “The load, or weight, or burden of my neighbour’s glory should be laid daily on my back... It is a serious thing... to remember that the duller and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people.”

Questions-

1. Do you agree that we “all day long, in some degree, are helping each other to one or other of these destinations?” How?
2. Why is it difficult to maintain an “eternal perspective”?

### Ambassadors Are New Creations In Christ (VERSE 17)

The old has gone, the new has come!

-YOU HAVE A STORY - YOUR TESTIMONY - -  
tell what Jesus has done for you.

-Be able to tell your story of giving your life to Jesus in about three to five minutes. Include:

1. What your life was like without Jesus
2. How you came to be introduced to Him
3. What you specifically said and did to turn your life over to Him
4. The changes that have transpired since your decision

They provide relational bridges, common ground with unbelievers. share appropriately what Jesus has done.

Questions-

1. Why are Personal Testimonies so powerful?

### Ambassadors Have Been Committed The Message Of Reconciliation (VERSE 19)

Read 2 Tim 2:15

-We need to know the Gospel Story (Good News) -You can't share what you don't know.

### Questions-

1. Have you ever been in a situation when you wished you knew more scripture?
2. Why would Paul call it shameful to “mishandle” the Word of Truth?

Ambassadors **ARE** therefore Christ's ambassadors:  
Winkie Pratney : “You do not have to learn to be a witness. You already are a witness! You are a witness to whatever or whoever is foremost in your life. You are telling the world right now what god you really belong to. Every day you are witnessing. What are you witnessing to? Your witness is the total package of your attitudes, character, and actions. It does not lie. No careful observer is fooled. What are you witnessing to? Whatever your god is, you will show the most interest in. If it is anything but Jesus, your closest friends already know. It will be the thing you like to talk most about, read most about, center your life on, love and live for. ... If you call yourself a Christian, you have already been witnessing - for or against Him. If you have claimed to belong to Him, but your life does not back up your words, men and women have rejected Christ and the Gospel because of you. ... I know of no Bible plan that will enable you to present Christ to others without your own life being Christ-like. If you would be His witness, you must really KNOW Him to show Him.

### Questions-

1. Are there any people in your life who may have gotten the “wrong picture” from you?
2. What practical things can you do this week to be a better Ambassador for Him?

Hold them accountable here – ask for real names, then pray for them together, and follow-up.