

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

5:11 –

“Fear the Lord”

“Persuade men”

“we are...plain to God...plain to your conscience”

5:12 –

Not trying to commend ourselves” – or, “defend ourselves”

Paul was trying to prepare the Corinthians to answer his critics, or the false teachers who “take pride in what is seen” but are not concerned about the real issues.

5:13 –

5:14 –

“compels us” or “constrains us”

“one died for all” means “all were dead in sin”

5:15 –

5:16 –

The people used to consider Jesus only from the worldly, fleshly position and missed his entire ministry.

5:17 –

“new creation” can mean “new species”

5:18 –

“reconciliation” is peace, but a peace brought about by a military victory

5:19 –

5:20 –

“Ambassadors” – is “presbeuo” (πρεσβευομεν) a technical term used of the emperor’s legate

The word is from the base of **presbuteros** which means to be a senior, elder or old man, i.e. (by implication) act as a representative (figuratively, preacher) be an ambassador.

They are one who speaks for the emperor.

“presbeuo” refers to the imperial service of Caesar

Used also in Ephesians 6:19-20 –

“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, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.”

Examples of Ambassadors in Scripture

- 2 Samuel 10:4
- 2 Chronicles 32:31
- 2 Chronicles 35:21
- Isaiah 30:4

Principles of Ambassadorship

1. Ambassadors do not appoint themselves. They are appointed by the imperial court. Jesus Christ appoints his own ambassadors.
2. Ambassadors must be personally accepted and welcomed in both countries (this is called a **persona grata** which means “acceptable person”) to fulfill their mission and to serve their purpose. (1 Peter 2:12, “Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.”)
3. Ambassadors bring an authoritative message and request (not demand) that it be accepted.
4. An ambassador does not support himself. God supplies all our needs. (Ephesians 1:3; Philippians 4:19)
5. An ambassador is not a citizen of the country where he is sent. We are citizens of heaven (Philippians 3:20)
6. An ambassador has instruction in written form. We have the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16)
7. An ambassador cannot take insults personally; he is accepted or rejected not on his own merit but because of who he represents (John 15:19-21)
8. An ambassador does not enter a country to profit himself (2 Corinthians 5:15)
9. An ambassador is a personal representative of someone else; everything he does and says reflects on the one who sent him. (John 13:35; 17:18-23; 20:21)
10. An ambassador’s perspective is service; his prospect is reward. (Matthew 5:12; 2 John 8; Revelation 22:12)
11. An ambassador is recalled when war is declared (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12)
12. An ambassador for the Lord (creator, judge, savior and king) is the most exalted positions available to mankind.

The world often makes ambassadors of Christ feel embarrassed or ashamed.

The absolute opposite is true.

The people of the world should be grateful and honored that the king of all the universe has sent into their lives one of His chosen and empowered spokespersons to speak directly to them for God himself.

What is our message as an ambassador?

2 Corinthians 5:20, “We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.”

Robertson Writes: “*Be ye reconciled to God* (\katalagˆte tˆi the“i\). Second aorist passive imperative of \katallass“\ and used with the dative case. **‘Get reconciled to God,’ and do it now.** This is the ambassador’s message as he bears it to men from God.”

- KJ: “we pray [you] in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.”
- NAS: “we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”
- Rotherham’s: “we entreat, in behalf of Christ,--be reconciled unto God!”
- CEV: “We speak for Christ and sincerely ask you to make peace with God.”

[Proverbs 13:17-](#)

A wicked messenger falleth into mischief: but a faithful **ambassador** is health.

[Jeremiah 49:14-](#)

I have heard news from Yahweh, and an **ambassador** is sent among the nations, saying, Gather yourselves together, and come against her, and rise up to the battle.

[Obadiah 1:1-](#)

The vision of Obadiah. This is what the Lord Yahweh says about Edom. We have heard news from Yahweh, and an **ambassador** is sent among the nations, saying, "Arise, and let's rise up against her in battle.