Ambassadors of Christ

The Apostle Paul declares that as Christ's followers we are ambassadors of Christ. What does it mean for us to be ambassadors of Christ? What do we say? How do we act? How can we be sure we're representing him well, that our witness genuinely reflects Christ's message? Paul says it's simple, the gospel. It's the gospel that compels you. Reconcile yourself to God, be in close relationship with God, and the gospel of Christ will be evident and appeal to others through you.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- How would you describe the role and purpose of an ambassador?
- Why do we need ambassadors? Why might God choose to use ambassadors?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: Ambassadors of Christ

READ 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In <u>2 Corinthians 5:20</u>, Paul calls you an ambassador of Christ, as if God is making his appeal to the world through you. What reactions, thoughts, and feelings does that idea stir up in you?
- What are you doing to ensure that you remain in tune with the mind and heart of our sovereign God for whom you are an ambassador?
- What is reconciliation? Why does God's mission of reconciliation seem so crazy to the world? What makes reconciliation difficult for us to practice in our own lives?
- How does the ministry of reconciliation relate to and affect our witness to the gospel?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

1 Corinthians 4, Ephesians 6:18-20

CONCLUSION

Consider these thoughts from N.T. Wright on <u>2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2</u> in his commentary *Paul For Everyone: 2 Corinthians*:

"But how is this possible? As he [Paul] asked in 2:16, who is capable of being God's agent in this extraordinary work? The answer is in the cross, on which God made the sinless Messiah to 'be sin' on our behalf. All our sins, our failings, our inadequacies, were somehow dealt with there, so that we—the apostles, and all who are called to be 'ministers of reconciliation'—could embody in our own lives the faithfulness of God."

Reflect on this quote and write down or discuss with someone what it means that God has called you to be a minister of reconciliation and made it possible for you to embody the faithfulness of God in your own life.

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