

## **Ambassadors for Christ: The Essential Skills**

An effective ambassador has three essential skills. First, an ambassador must have the basic knowledge necessary for his task (an accurately informed mind). Second, he needs wisdom, the kind of tactical diplomacy that helps make his message clear and persuasive (an artful method). Third, the ambassador's character (an attractive manner) will either make or break his message. This workshop will show in detail what steps need to be taken in each of these areas for a Christian ambassador to make a difference in the culture of the 21st Century.

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**2 Corinthians 5:20 – “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”**

### **I. Followers of Jesus Christ**

A. One, Paul knew that an ambassador stands between two parties:

1. A sovereign with a message to communicate—in this case a vital message about reconciliation,

2. The foreign subject, the one to whom the message is sent

B. Two, as believers, we already are ambassadors.

1. This is an indicative statement.

2. We are ambassadors for Christ—for good or for ill—whether we like it or not.

C. Three, for an ambassador for Christ it is just as if God were speaking through him.

## II. The Skills of Effective Ambassadors

A. Good, effective ambassadors need to be skilled in three areas.

1. First, knowledge-A good ambassador has to be thoroughly acquainted with who and what he represents.

2. Second, wisdom-He needs a certain deftness in using this knowledge, a tactical sensitivity, a diplomatic skill.

3. Third, character-The ambassador is the package the knowledge and the wisdom come in.

B. The same is true for Christian ambassadors.

1. First, we have to know a few things. An ambassador must have the basic knowledge necessary for his task.

a. We must know our Lord and His intentions.

b. We must know the plans of His Kingdom.

2. Second, this knowledge must be deployed in a skillful way. There's an element of *wisdom*, a tactical and artful diplomacy that makes the message persuasive.

3. Third, we must embody the virtues of the kingdom we serve.

### **III. Knowledge—An Accurately-informed Mind**

A. An accurate grasp of the foundational precepts concerning the Kingdom as they apply to the current culture.

B. Broadly put, this requires attention in two critical categories: knowledge about the facts of Christianity and knowledge about the false philosophies of the age.

1. Knowledge of the Bible

2. Knowledge of the questions

C. So we need to know how to communicate the **truth** and how to deal with the **error**.

### **IV. Wisdom—An Artful Method**

“A skillful, tactical, fair, and diplomatic use of knowledge”

A. One, tactics—presenting the truth cleverly, maneuvering to get a footing or an appropriate advantage in the conversation

B. Two, clarity and persuasiveness—being able to present the truth in an unambiguous and compelling way

## **V. Character—An Attractive Manner**

A. We should be gentle and reverent, not quarrelsome, but kind, patiently correcting those in error.

1. Gentle & reverent: 1 Peter 3:15 “But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.”

2. Patient & not quarrelsome: 2 Timothy 2:24-25 “And the Lord’s bondservant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth.”

B. Arguments—principled disagreements about matters of fact—are good things. There are lots of good arguments in the Bible.

C. But we are not to be acrimonious, nasty, or harsh, fighting for the fight’s sake.

D. We ought to be warm, attractive, and inviting.

E. Key thought: The Gospel is offensive enough. Don’t add any more offense to it. But we dare not remove the offense inherent to the Gospel.