

# Ambassador III - Character

*Week 1 - An Ambassador Knows the Fear of God*

## Introduction

Warm up exercise: (5 min.)

### *Who does Jesus want us to be?*

"More like Jesus." --"It's too easy to jump from wanting to me more like Jesus to "What Would Jesus **Do**?" Before we jump, we should make sure we understand who Jesus would have us *be*.

Acting without a biblical understanding of who Jesus wants us to be is the reason so many become unhealthy in their spiritual lives, producing unhealthy disciples and unhealthy churches. [Stiles p. 17]

### *Pastoral Motivation*

So why have people jumped to action, in this case evangelistic action, before being people of faith? Maybe it's because they can. ***We have not been watchful enough about the conditions of people's hearts before we ask them to act, because with the right method or program, the condition of a person's heart isn't that important.*** We have become pragmatists. [Stiles p. 19]

Pragmatic evangelism counts: converts, members, programs, but rarely counts faithfulness to the message or the faithfulness of the messenger. [Stiles p. 21]

***Foundations--Faithful ambassadors know the fear the Lord (2 Cor. 5:10-11)***

### ***The Fear the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:6-10)***

Even the Christian must fear God. But it is another kind of fear. It is a fear rather of what might have been than of what is; it is a fear of what would come were we not in Christ. Without such fear there can be no true love; for love of the Saviour is proportioned to one's horror of that from which man has been saved. And how strong are the lives that are suffused with such a love! They are lives brave, not because the realities of life have been ignored, but because they have first been faced — lives that are founded upon the solid foundation of God's grace. May such lives be ours! [J. Gresham Machen, article--*The Fear of the Lord*]

### **Breakout**

1. Which of the following are found in the Bible?
  - \_\_\_ "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge"
  - \_\_\_ "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom"
  - \_\_\_ "The fear of the LORD adds length to life..."
  - \_\_\_ "The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life"
  - \_\_\_ "The fear of the LORD is a bummer"
  - \_\_\_ "Through the fear of the LORD, a man avoids evil"
  - \_\_\_ "The fear of the LORD leads to life"
  
2. Do you fear God? *If you'd been asked this an hour ago, would you have said the same?*
  
3. Should you fear God? *What about Hebrews 4:16?*
  
4. How does a healthy fear of the Lord affect an ambassador's:
  - ethics/morality/lifestyle?
  
  - view/treatment of the Gospel
  
  - way of thinking/decision making?
  
  - priorities?

### ***Suggested Reading:***

- *Marks of the Messenger--Ch 1.*