

Ambassador III - Character

An Ambassador Doesn't Tamper With the Message

Introduction/Review

Knowing the Fear of the LORD, an ambassador :

... would not dare to tamper with God's Message

White board exercise: What would cause or motivate professing believers to tamper with God's message of reconciliation (the Gospel)? (2 Cor. 2:17; 2 Cor. 4:1-6)

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

The goal here is not that you will just "prefer" to be faithful to God's Word, but that you will actually *fear* mis-representing God's message.

God's zeal for guarding his Word: Deuteronomy 4:2;12:32; Proverbs 30:5; Revelation 22:18-19

Paul equates distortion of the gospel to deserting God--And calls a curse : Galatians 1:6-9

- The gospel is already _____ (Gal 5:11, Rom 9:33)
- The gospel is already considered _____ (1 Cor 1:18,23,)
- We dare not remove the inherent offense of the gospel. (Gal 1:6-9)

We want people to see their sin in all its horror, not so they are motivated to “clean up their act,” but so they fall at the feet of Jesus knowing that he is their only hope. People need to see the depth of their sin so that they come to a fuller understanding of the depth of God’s grace.¹

Breakout

If we confess our sins and shortcomings in the area of witness, just as in any other area of our lives, Jesus promises not only to forgive our failures and inadequacies but to come to our aid and to teach us what to say and how to say it.²

Below are self-evaluation questions we should all work through on our own.

- We are all guilty of these to varying degrees. How can I say that?
- What safeguards do we have (or need to have) in place? How do we grow?
 - Any specific equipping requests?

1. Are you in danger of tampering with God’s message?
 - Pride/Idolatry
 - Are you willing to change or skip the parts you don’t like?
 - Ignorance
 - Are you buying into what you’ve heard over the years, or firmly founded in God’s Word?
 - Do you recognize the dangers of these false gospels (Easy Believism, TMD, Self-Improvement ...)? Do you fear for those who’ve trusted them? ... those who’ve proclaimed them?
 - Are you equipped to recognize error? If you need help understanding the error, get with your CG leader or an elder... study up! And sign up for Amb-I.
 - Fear of Man
 - Will you, in the fear of the Lord, resolve to proclaim the pure Gospel and pray for the courage to do so?
2. Will you resolve to pray for the things an ambassador of Christ prays for? (see the notes) Will you draw others into your prayer circle for this purpose?

Suggested Reading: *Marks of the Messenger*--Ch 2, 3.

¹ J. Mack Stiles, *Marks of the Messenger*, IVP Books, p. 31.

² Barrs, Jerram, *The Heart of Evangelism*, Crossway Books, Wheaton Ill. 2001, p. 53.