

# Ambassador III - Character

## An Ambassador Does Not Bring Reproach (part 1)

### Introduction/Review

The last two weeks we discussed how an Ambassador knows the fear of the LORD (Cor. 5). The first week we talked about the fear of the LORD as:

- Foundational (beginning of wisdom/knowledge)
- Experienced by all who encounter Him (friends and enemies alike!)
- Paradoxical for Christians

An ambassador, knowing the fear of the Lord, dares not tamper with the message of reconciliation that has been entrusted to him/her. Then we discussed some of the reasons why an ambassador might tamper with God's message:

- pride -- "we can do better"
- ignorance -- "just don't know any better" (apathy?)
- fear of man -- "what will people think?" (future lesson on this)

### *Knowing the Fear of the LORD, an ambassador:*

- would not dare to tamper with His message – the Gospel
- **would not dare to misrepresent His Character or otherwise bring reproach upon Christ or His Bride by living immorally or foolishly. (ref. Piper Handout)**
- is growing in boldness and courage, putting to death the fear of man.

*White board exercise:* What are some of the ways that people wearing the label "Christian" bring reproach upon God, Christ, the Church and the Gospel?

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An ambassador, knowing the fear of the Lord, dares not bring reproach on God by:

I. \_\_\_\_\_ teaching \_\_\_\_\_ about God.

A. His most defining characteristic is \_\_\_\_\_

*Scaling the Language Barrier*  
Worldly love =  
Godly love =

In reality, God's most defining characteristic is \_\_\_\_\_ **Isaiah 6:3;**  
**Revelation 4:8; Isaiah 55:9**

B. He's less than \_\_\_\_\_. *Think about how foreign this kind of language is to Scripture.*

1. God would never \_\_\_\_\_.

**Exodus 9:12; Exodus 10:1; Deuteronomy 2:30; Acts 16:14**

2. God \_\_\_\_\_

3. We are in \_\_\_\_\_.

4. God doesn't know \_\_\_\_\_.

*Others:*

II. **Implicitly teaching wrong things about God by the way we live.**

**1 Corinthians 10:31 1 Peter 4:11**

A. *Living* \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Corinthians 6:20; Luke 12:2-5; 1 Corinthians 6:18-19; 2 Timothy 2:22**

B. *Living* \_\_\_\_\_

## **Breakout**

I. The Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) is broadcast all over the world featuring health and wealth prosperity teachers, bad makeup, silly signs and wonders, and endless send-us-your-seed (money) praise-a-thons etc.

- *Are they bringing glory or reproach on God? (in what way?)*
  
- *As an ambassador for Christ, how do handle being associated with TBN?*

II. Biblically Reformed folks like us from DSC are often accused of character assassination with respect to God. [So we're kind of turning the tables here...] We had a couple leave our CG and DSC over this issue after a thorough study of Romans 9. I could see in their eyes concern for our very souls that we could believe *what they characterize as*:

- *"you believe that God brings people kicking and screaming against their will into the Kingdom..." (one author called it "cosmic rape")*
  - *"you believe that God predestines people to hell... What kind of love is that?"*
- *As an ambassador for Christ, how do you respond to these accusations?*
    - *Are we bringing reproach on God by smearing His character? If not, why not?*

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

*Marks of the Messenger--Ch 4,5.*

*The Heart of Evangelism--Section IV Ch. 27-38 (two weeks)*

*Decision Making and the Will of God--Class Notes available at:*

<http://objectivegospel.org/training/DecisionMaking/>

*Compatibilism (Dr. James White) <http://objectivegospel.org/reformed/compatibilism.shtml>*

### ***Schedule for Upcoming Sundays:***

*Apr 17 - Wk 4 -- No Reproach by Living Foolishly*

*Apr 24 - Off -- Resurrection Celebration*

*May 1 - Wk 5 -- Fear of Man -- \*Clarus--Consider both services and catch up by notes*

*May 8 - Wk 6 -- Fruits of the Spirit I*

*May 15 - Wk 7 -- Fruits of the Spirit II*

*May 22 - Wk 8 -- Fruits of the Spirit III*

*May 29 - Off -- Memorial Day weekend*

*June 5 - Wk 9 -- Fruits of the Spirit IV*