

# Ambassador III - Character

## An Ambassador Does Not Bring Reproach (part 2)

### Introduction/Review

Last week's 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? Then we started the discussion of these three areas.

- I. About God --*explicitly teaching wrong things about God (ref. wk-1) or implicitly teaching wrong things about God by the way we live (ref. following points)*
- II. Immorality --*didn't spend a lot of time on it, but important. Flee immorality! Warning: "Human beings have an infinite capacity for self-deception." --Chuck Colson*
- III. Foolishness --*here is where we'll focus primarily today.*

### White board exercise (two part)

What are some things we do, ways we behave that make us *appear* foolish?

Those things that aren't foolish,  
but *appear* so to the world.

Those things that *are* foolish.

The difference? What's an ambassador's response?

Would you agree that life is a continual process of \_\_\_\_\_?

How ought Christians to do it? What's important?

Would you all agree that \_\_\_\_\_ is critically important for Christians (ambassadors)?

... would not dare to misrepresent God's character or bring reproach upon Christ or is Bride by living immorally or foolishly.

What we've been talking about here is discussed in greater detail in the first part of the Amb-II -*Wisdom* class. So as we go through this review of that material, be thinking of how our decision making model has the potential to bring reproach on God, Christ, and his Body/Bride the Church.

Make your initial notes as we go through it. We'll have breakout time and Q&A to discuss it further.

## I. Review of the "Decision Making and the Will of God" portion of Amb-II

A. "Conventional" decision-making view in a nutshell:

1. God has an individual will or blueprint for our lives that we are to be about figuring out.
2. We use a variety of methods to figure out what that will is. Some of the methods:
  - a. looking for private messages in the Bible
  - b. trying to "tune in" to the leading of the Holy Spirit through our thoughts and feelings – two-way prayer techniques, etc.
  - c. depending on our feeling of "having a peace about it"
  - d. looking for and depending upon "opened and closed doors"
  - e. putting out unbiblical fleeces
  - f. looking for "confirmations" in various forms

B. We discussed these popular techniques and demonstrated how none of them were given to us as models for our decision making, how the proof texts offered for the texts do not support them, and some of the dangers of the methods.

C. Discussed trying to "hear the voice of God," and whether we are attempting to limit God by refusing to pursue unbiblical means to divine God's will (and refusing to believe that God could be "trying" to communicate with us but failing).

D. We defined God's will in two categories: His sovereign will, that which God will bring about and *cannot* be missed, and His moral will (commands, moral standards). The "individual will of God for me in every decision *that I'm supposed to figure out*" does not exist. We need to set aside all superstitious methodologies and press on to see how God intended for us to make decisions.

E. We demonstrated from God's Word that God's will for our lives is not lost--*so we can quit looking for it!*

1. It is God's will that you **be saved**. **Acts 17:30-31**
2. It is God's will that you be **filled with His Spirit**. **Ephesians 5:17-18**
3. It is God's will that you be **sanctified** (holy/set apart). **Romans 12:2; 1 Thessalonians 4:3**
4. It is God's will that you be **submissive**.
  - a. To God—obedient to the Great Commission and Great Commandment **James 4:7**
  - b. To the elders **Hebrews 13:17**
  - c. To one another **Ephesians 5:21**
  - d. To worldly government/authority **1 Peter 2:13-15**
5. It is God's will that you **suffer**. **Philippians 1:29; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:19**
6. It is God's will that you be **thankful**. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**
7. It is God's will that you be **wise**. **Ephesians 5:15-16**

F. Our Biblical decision making model is simple (but not easy) --*Do the wisest thing.*

1. Entire sections of inspired Scripture are dedicated to wisdom... It's purpose is... decision making!
2. **Godly** wisdom encompasses obedience, holiness, etc ...

**II. Breakout--discuss among yourselves the possible reproach of unbiblical models for decision making.**

**III. Group Discussion/Q&A**

**Schedule for Upcoming Sundays:**

*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*

**Suggested Reading:**

*The Heart of Evangelism-Section IV Ch. 27-38*

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

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