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<sup>ESV</sup> **2 Corinthians 5:17-21** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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Paul teaches us three things about a Christian ambassador:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Note the parallels to the Great Commission.

- What does it mean to be reconciled with God and have your trespasses not counted against you?
- What do you think another term for “message of reconciliation” could be?
- Ephesians 6:19-20 “... to proclaim the mystery of the \_\_\_\_\_, for which I am an \_\_\_\_\_ in chains...”

### ***Applied to Christian Ambassadors***

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ Next week will be focused on this aspect of being an ambassador
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ Two weeks from now will be focused on this
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ Here is where we will spend the rest of our time this morning.

### **Character – A Warm, Attractive, and Inviting Manner**

What is the perception of “Christians” in the world today?

- Real or phony?
- Warm and engaging or distant?
- Rational or irrational?
- Morally distinct?
- Fools for Christ, or just plain fools?

**Two extremes to avoid as Christian Ambassadors:**

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

***An Ambassador Exhibits:*** \_\_\_\_\_ .

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<sup>ESV</sup> **Galatians 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

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***An Ambassador is*** \_\_\_\_\_ .

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<sup>ESV</sup> **1 Peter 3:15-16** but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

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***An Ambassador is*** \_\_\_\_\_ ***but*** \_\_\_\_\_ .

Of Man (not a virtue—a battle we all fight 12 exhortations to “be strong and courageous”)  
Courage: \_\_\_\_\_

Of God

<sup>ESV</sup> **2 Corinthians 5:11a** Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others.

<sup>ESV</sup> **2 Timothy 1:7** for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

***An Ambassador is*** \_\_\_\_\_ .

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<sup>ESV</sup> **Ephesians 6:18b-20** To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, <sup>19</sup> and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

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- The gospel is already \_\_\_\_\_ (Gal 5:11, Rom 9:33) we dare not add to the offense by being offensive. (superior attitude, man made rules, speculative theology ...)
- The gospel is already considered \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor 1:18,23,) we take care not to add to this perception by being foolish. (*There is a difference between being considered a fool for Christ and being foolish*).
- We dare not remove the inherent offense of the gospel. When we do, we find ourselves preaching \_\_\_\_\_ gospel (Gal 1:6-9)
- *More on the offense of the cross and the message next week ...*

**Be \_\_\_\_\_ !**

- Care about the person you are speaking to. If you don't, people will see right through you.
- Respect them enough to seek to really understand their view – quick to listen, slow to speak – *few things are more disrespectful than misrepresenting what they have said to you... Straw man fallacy*

**Lose the \_\_\_\_\_ !**

- acceptjesuschristasyourpersonallordandsavior – *Huh?*
- Are you saved? - *Huh? From what?* (most Christians don't know what from)
- I had a burden ... *Who talks like that?*
- God spoke to me ... *Somebody call the funny farm ...*

**Four Powerful Phrases (and don't say them unless you mean them!)**

If you can demonstrate some true humility and grace (knowing that it will not likely be returned), you can establish some good will and credibility.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_

*Discernment Rabbit Trail:* Scripture often calls for us to be fruit inspectors. Have you had questions about the veracity of certain teachers, ministries, movements, manifestations of spiritual gifts, etc.? ***Always remember, where the fruits of the Spirit are absent, the Holy Spirit is absent.***

**For More Information:**

Web site and blog for this class: ([www.objectivegospel.org](http://www.objectivegospel.org)) (click "Training" and "Ambassador Essentials")

- Download the notes and handouts, links to more information...
- Access the class blog where you can ask questions, make comments, give your answers to questions during the class (anonymously if you prefer)

Stand to Reason web site ([www.str.org](http://www.str.org)) --the source of most of what I am presenting during the seminar.

Contact: [Tim@objectivegospel.org](mailto:Tim@objectivegospel.org)

Pastoral Oversight: [Ron@desertspringschurch.org](mailto:Ron@desertspringschurch.org)