

Christian Ambassador Essentials

Sunday Seminar – Week 2

Review

- Definition of an ambassador- One who stands between two parties with a message to communicate: the Sovereign being represented is God and the foreign subject is the world.
- We already are ambassadors
 - Message of reconciliation (a.k.a. the *gospel*)
 - Clear parallels to being a witness/ defender of the faith (apologist)
- Characteristics of an effective ambassador
 - Knowledge – an accurately informed mind ... need to know some things
 - Wisdom – an artful method ... need to know how to apply the knowledge to the culture (mission field)- *next week!*
 - Character – an attractive manner
- **Character** – the package the wisdom and knowledge come in
 - Exhibits the fruits of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23; 1 Pet 3:15-16; 2 Tim 2:24-25)
 - Humble/Real*
 - “I could be wrong”--“I don’t know”
 - “I sympathize with your concern”
 - “That’s a good point” (good question... legitimate objection)
 - Speak in common language (lose the pop-church lingo)
 - Is fearful (1 Cor 2:1-5)
 - Is bold/courageous (Eph 6:18-20)

Knowledge – “An accurately informed mind”

Know God (His character, attributes & message)

Doctrine & Theology – very unpopular today--Why?

Source of God’s Revelation of Himself: _____ + _____.

Whenever you have the _____ + _____, the _____ *always* loses out.

Sola _____. Ref.: the Cambridge Declaration

Most evangelicals would agree with this statement, but then have odd ways of applying it.

- _____ Bible –treat their Bibles like a _____ Board – scan through it looking for personal private messages in the text... something that “jumps out.”

Examples: “put on the new man” & “Grace be unto you”

Are you offended by the _____ or are you offended by the _____?

“The Holy Spirit is my teacher” (John 14:26):

No personal (subjective) experiences?!

Know God’s Message (of reconciliation – the gospel)

Recommended: “The Gospel for Christians” seminar by Ryan Kelly. (links on our site or DSC)

What it’s not – a life enhancement program or product to be “sold”

The goal of the contemporary evangelism: _____.

This approach has been a *_____ for the Kingdom of God, yet it is still used widely.

*Statistics from major crusades show:

Parachute analogy:

What is the result (of this other gospel)?

Scariest Verses in the Bible: _____

²¹“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” ²² On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ ²³ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

- *There are* _____
- *They are* _____
- *Their blood* _____

The theological error: (turning _____ into a work)

Romans 10:9 was never intended to be turned into a _____

“Standing at the door *knocking” or “commanding from His throne” (Acts 17:30)

*Rev 3:20-

What it is - a prescription for peace with God, the one and only way of salvation

Repent ... Mark 6:12, Acts 2:38, Acts 3:19, Acts 8:22, Acts 17:30, Acts 26:20, Revelation 3:19

... and Believe (have faith, trust) in Jesus Christ... Acts 16:30, John 3:18, John 3:36, John 8:24, John 10:7

How do we proclaim repentance and belief? By the biblical model: Law to the proud; Grace to the humble (first the bad news, then the good news).

The function of God’s Law

- To shut the _____ and bring _____ (Rom 3:19-20; 7:7)
- Lead us to _____ (Gal 3:24)
- Start recognizing how often people in the Bible are first brought to the knowledge of sin and then given the gospel if appropriate.

How do we start? On common ground: _____.

What was the greatest act of love in human history? _____ The _____.

Important: Salvation is a _____; your role is to _____.

Even _____ (2 Tim 2:25) and _____ (John 6:65) are granted from God. They are not works we do to be saved, but rather, are the outworking of a life transformed by God.

Know the nature, language, and culture of those to whom you are a representative

Fallen humanity

Romans 1:18-20 _____ of the _____ ... and without _____.

Ephesians 2:1-3 And you were _____ in the trespasses and sins ...

People don’t generally reject God _____; they do so because they _____ the truth (an issue of the will and the domain of the Holy Spirit).

Postmodernism - The current incarnation of worldliness

Quick History of Worldly Thought*

Pre-modern (~2500 yrs)	Modern (~250 yrs)	Postmodern (25 yrs?)

*From Phil Johnson’s Teaching: *You Can’t Handle the Truth—Addressing the tolerance of postmodernism*

Full notes available at the class website: www.objectivegospel.org menu: [Training → Ambassador Essentials]
 You can also find a preview for next week, and some other classes I’ve taught on related topics.

Four essentials of the Christian worldview postmodernists cannot stomach:

- _____ --postmodernists believe *all truth is subjective*, relative
 - _____ Truth – always true no matter who believes it (multiplication tables ...)
 - _____ Truth – depends on the person (personal taste... etc.)
- _____ -postmodernists believe meaning is determined by _____ rather than the _____. It's completely _____-absorbed, the _____ is irrelevant. (*recognize Ouija Bible hermeneutics?*)
- _____ -... no foundations for knowledge, *all opinions are equally valid*.
- _____ -...believe you can't know anything for sure and it's arrogant to claim to.

Postmodernism's influence on the church.

- Rejection of the doctrine and theology for " _____ "
- Ouija Hermeneutics → Biblical _____
- Rejection of Biblical _____
- Rejection of Biblical _____ in *decision making
*this is a potential area for a future seminar—feedback to the elders it you believe this would be helpful. How do we decide whom to marry? ... where to go to school? ... which job to take?

The Language Barrier

- Truth -
- Faith -
- Humility-
- Tolerance & Inclusiveness -*The chief virtues of postmodernism*

Scripture on tolerance:

- _____ intolerance is _____ **Revelation 2:2**
- _____ tolerance is _____ (false teaching) **Rev 2:20, 2 Cor. 11:4**
- _____ tolerance is _____ (immorality). **1 Corinthians 5:1**
- Real tolerance is amply described in the fruits of the Spirit and in exhortations to put others interests ahead of your own. (patience, kindness, selflessness)

Scripture on "inclusiveness"

- The gospel call is *inclusive* (_____ are called to _____) and *exclusive* (Jesus is the only way). It is important to express that this is not _____ teaching, but _____.

"Exclusive:" **1 Cor. 6:9-11, John 14:6, Acts 4:11-12, 1 Tim 2:5, 1 John 2:23, 1 John 5:11-12, Luke 10:16, Luke 12:8-9**

Enough to show: