

What Does It Mean To Be A Christian?

A Christian Is An Ambassador For Christ



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

A Christian Is An Ambassador For Christ

Learn about Christian ambassadorship, including the character and work of a Christian ambassador

Watch the free video or listen to the audio of this study @ www.godsaidso.com/dgw114

Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

Study Number: DGW114

Written by Eric Krieg

About the author: My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

Copyright: Copyright © 2018 GodSaidSo Press. Please use this material to God's glory and honor. Feel free to copy and distribute this material in any way that will bring God glory and help souls to be saved. However, you may not take any of the material out of context or change the material in any way. Please provide the author with the proper credit for the material.

Scripture quotations: Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

**FIND MORE FROM THE DISCOVERING GOD'S WORD BIBLE STUDY SERIES @
WWW.GODSAIDSO.COM**

What Does It Mean To Be A Christian?

A Christian Is An Ambassador For Christ

What does it mean to be a Christian? Being a Christian means a great deal. Fortunately, God has given us all the information we need to know about what being a Christian really means. As we study His saving message, we discover that a Christian is an ambassador for Christ.

Christian Ambassadorship

Ambassadors have been employed by nations for thousands of years. And, nations continue to use ambassadors even today. Certainly, then, there must be some value to a leader of a nation sending out an ambassador to another nation. But, ambassadorship is not just important with regard to nations in this world. The apostle Paul even considered himself to be an ambassador. Therefore, let's learn a little about ambassadorship to begin this lesson and understand how the term can be rightly applied to those who are Christians.

What is an ambassador?

In its most common use, an “ambassador” refers to an individual who is sent from one nation to another in order to be the official representative of the nation he/she was sent from. Typically, the work of an ambassador is to facilitate diplomatic relations

between two countries or to promote a particular kind of activity.

In a more general way, an “ambassador” is any kind of representative. It references someone who is sent to accomplish a particular mission. This individual is responsible for maintaining relations with those in an area the one who is sending this “ambassador” will not be present.

Paul was an ambassador

The term “ambassador(s)” is infrequently used in the pages of Scripture. Primarily, it is used in the Old Testament Scriptures to refer to ambassadors in the sense of being sent from one nation as a representative to another. However, it is this word's use in the New Testament that we specifically want to consider at this time. On two different occasions, Paul used this word to identify the work that he was doing.

First, consider Ephesians 6:18-20. Paul, after identifying the armor God had given the Christian to be clothed with, said, “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

In this text, Paul desired to have prayers on his behalf, for his work as an ambassador. Specifically, he was “an ambassador in chains” (in prison). Now, he had not been sent from his home country to another country as an ambassador in a *physical* sense. Instead, he was speaking in this sense of being imprisoned (likely in Rome) for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is the message he recognized the need to speak boldly. As an ambassador of Jesus Christ, he had been given the responsibility of taking the message of the gospel throughout this world.

Second, consider 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus

Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

Notice that it is through Jesus Christ that God was working to reconcile the world that was lost in sin to Himself. And, Paul and his companions had been entrusted with the “ministry of reconciliation” that revolved around teaching others the “word of reconciliation.” This is the gospel of Jesus Christ (as it is the power of God for salvation, see Romans 1:16). Therefore, Paul and his companions were “ambassadors for Christ” because their work was focused on telling others the message God had entrusted to their care. In carrying out their work of pleading with people to be reconciled to God, it was as though God was pleading through them and “on Christ’s behalf.” Then, in 2 Corinthians 6:1, Paul said, “We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.”

All Christians are ambassadors

These are the only two Scripture references concerning ambassadorship in the pages of the New Testament. And, as you can see, they both have direct reference to the work that the apostle Paul was doing. Yes, as an apostle of Christ, he had been sent with special orders to fulfill. However, the 2 Corinthians 5 reference makes it clear that this concept does *not* just apply to the work the apostles were doing. Instead, Paul references both himself and his companions (particularly Timothy, see 2 Corinthians 1:1) as “ambassadors for Christ.”

They were all focused on doing the work God had given them to accomplish in their lives upon this earth. Particularly, they were focused on accomplishing the work of spreading the “word of reconciliation.” But, this work was not limited to a select few among the early Christians. Instead, every Christian had been given the responsibility to teach

the gospel of Jesus Christ to others. For instance, Acts 8:4 makes reference to the Christians who were scattered because of Saul’s persecution going everywhere preaching the word of God. And, 2 Timothy 2:24-26 states that helping those who have been taken captive by Satan to do his will come to their senses is a work that a servant of Christ “must” do.

Therefore, the concept of being an ambassador for Jesus Christ is something that applies to everyone who is a Christian. And, though the term is specifically used in these two New Testament passages with reference to teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, there is much more in the concept of Christian ambassadorship that fits with the teachings of the Bible.

The Basics Of Christian Ambassadorship

As you consider who an ambassador is, there are several comparisons to who the Christian also must be. Therefore, we want to take a few moments to consider two basic facts about Christian ambassadorship.

Temporary resident of a foreign land

As briefly mentioned at the beginning of this study, an ambassador is commonly sent from one nation to another. Typically, this ambassador will stay as a guest in the host country for an agreeable period of time while he/she works to accomplish the mission he/she has been sent to fulfill. During this time he/she lives in this foreign country, he/she learns a great deal about the culture of this place, communicates and interacts with the people of the land, etc. – but he/she never becomes a permanent resident of this country. He/she is always a guest and has his/her home as the country that sent him/her.

In the same way, a Christian ambassador is a representative of Christ here on this earth. Though the Christian lives on this earth, learns a great deal about the culture on this earth, and interacts with the people he/she lives around, the Christian must never

try to take up permanent residency here on this earth. He/she must constantly be reminded of the fact that he/she is not on this earth to fulfill his/her own pleasures; but to fulfill the purposes of Jesus Christ!

There are a number of passages in the Scriptures that remind us of the fact that Christians are only on this earth as temporary residents – and not as permanent citizens. First, consider Hebrews 11:13-16. “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”

Specifically, this passage speaks of the Old Testament patriarchs (i.e. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob). They had received the promises God had made to them concerning their descendants and the land of promise. However, they had not received the promises themselves. Yet, they lived lives of faith, being assured of them. Then, they also viewed themselves as “strangers and pilgrims on the earth.” They recognized that they were not permanently upon this earth. And, the passage states that they sought a better country than the one they had come from. Namely, they were seeking a Heavenly country. Like these faithful individuals, Christians should only be considering themselves as strangers and pilgrims on this earth who are seeking a better and Heavenly country. Certainly, this will transform the way the Christian will approach his/her time on this earth.

Second, consider Philippians 3:20-21. “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”

Actually, the attitude taken by Paul in these verses is a contrast to the attitude of those described

as “enemies of the cross of Christ” who focused on earthly things and fulfilling their own desires (see verses 18-19). Instead, those who are Christians recognize that their true citizenship is not on this earth. Rather, it is in Heaven! Therefore, those who are Christians will not be focused on fulfilling their own physical desires above accomplishing the mission of Jesus Christ!

Third, consider 1 Peter 1:17-19. “And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

The conduct of the Christian ambassador during his/her stay here on this earth is to be “in fear.” This is the fear of God that includes both reverential respect for God and a terror of the Lord. And, the Christian ambassador recognizes that he/she must be a devoted representative for Jesus Christ upon this earth because he/she was redeemed from slavery to sin by the “precious blood of Christ”! So, the Christian's stay here on this earth is not about service to his/her own selfish desires or ambitions. Instead, it is entirely about fearing God and keeping His commandments (compare with Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

Fourth, consider 1 Peter 2:9-12. “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

Peter described the Christian by using a number of different terms in verses 9 and 10. Particularly, notice that Christians are identified as

being the “people of God” who have obtained mercy from God. As such, Peter begged the Christians he was writing to that they would “abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul” and keep their conduct honorable among the people they were around. But, the basis for conducting themselves in these ways was in recognition of the fact that they were only temporary residents here on this earth. And, as such (i.e. as Christian ambassadors), they needed to recognize that there were things in this foreign land that would be detrimental to their mission and needed to keep away from them. The same continues to be true for every Christian ambassador today. Thus, Paul instructed the Roman Christians to present themselves as living sacrifices and not to be conformed to the ways of this sin-filled world (Romans 12:1-2).

Fifth, consider John 15:18-19. “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”

Jesus wanted His disciples (those who would be His ambassadors) to understand that the world hated Him because He lived in a way that was different from their ways. So, those who would dedicate themselves to following Him would also be hated by the world. This, Jesus said, was because even though they were living *in* the world, they were not “of the world.” Everyone who chooses to follow Jesus Christ must recognize themselves in this same way. They are *not* citizens of this world or live the same ways as those who are citizens of this world. Instead, they are (as Paul identified himself) citizens of Heaven who are dedicated to living according to the holy ways of God!

Representative of the King and the kingdom

For a brief time, God lived as man upon this earth. That is precisely who Jesus Christ was. In fact, Jesus’ name “Immanuel” meant, “God with us” (see Matthew 1:23). Whenever He lived on this earth, He perfectly accomplished the will of the Father and did everything that was necessary to establish His kingdom. Included in this work was teaching people

on this earth about the kingdom He was going to establish.

Yet, God is not living as man any longer so as directly interact with the people of this world and teach them about the kingdom of Heaven. Instead, He has sent ambassadors to continue accomplishing this mission. For instance, just prior to ascending in Heaven, Jesus told His disciples, “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen” (Matthew 28:18-20).

Jesus Christ was no longer going to have a physical existence on this earth to accomplish the mission that needed to be accomplished. He had fulfilled His mission. Now, He could fulfill all future work by sending ambassadors. So, Christian ambassadors are representatives of Jesus Christ (the King) and His kingdom (the church). The Christian’s hands are Jesus’ hands to accomplish His work. The Christian’s feet are Jesus’ feet to go where He wants them to go. The Christian’s mind is Jesus’ mind to focus on doing the works of God. The Christian’s eyes are Jesus’ eyes to watch for opportunities to serve and do good. The Christian’s ears are Jesus’ ears to listen for those same opportunities. The Christian’s tongue is Jesus’ tongue to speak words that are helpful in accomplishing God’s purposes.

Consider Romans 6:11-13. “Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”

As a Christian ambassador, you have been bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ (see 1 Peter 1:17-19 and 1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Therefore, though you had served sin at one time in the past, you have been ransomed from that slavery to sin in order that you might serve God during your time on this

earth. And, this means that you must not permit unrighteousness (sin) to be accomplished in your physical body. Instead, you must use all the members of your physical body to accomplish things that are right and pleasing to God.

The Character Of The Christian Ambassador

As a representative of Christ and His kingdom, you must put Him absolutely first in your life. In Matthew 6:33, Jesus instructed, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Therefore, you must be entirely devoted to accomplishing His mission for you as you dwell in this foreign land. To do this involves two things: Possessing the right character and participating in the right work. Let’s begin considering these now by first considering some of the traits you must put off and put on in your life to appropriately represent Jesus Christ while you live on this earth.

A focus on heavenly things

To work toward developing the character Jesus Christ requires of His representatives, let’s focus in Colossians 3. And, as we begin considering this text, recognize that there must be a transformation in the focus of the ambassador of Jesus Christ.

Consider Colossians 3:1-4. “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”

Those who have become Christians have been “raised with Christ.” Romans 6:3-4 explains that there was a putting to death of the old man that was committed to the ways of sin, a burial of this old man in the watery grave of baptism, and a raising to walk in newness of life. So, by implication, since everyone who is truly a Christian has been raised

with Christ, everyone who is a Christian must be seeking those things that are above rather than the things that are on this earth – because everyone who is a Christian has died, has his/her life “hidden with Christ in God,” and has Jesus as his/her life!

Therefore, the Christian ambassador is not focused on living to fulfill his/her own earthly desires. Those things have been put to death. Instead, for the Christian, “to live is Christ” (Philippians 1:21). Everything a Christian decides to do is entirely focused on accomplishing the will of Christ – as if Christ was living in his/her physical body. For instance, Paul stated, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). As such, Paul said that “those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24).

Put off

Colossians 3:5-11 goes on to identify a number of characteristics that have no place in the lives of those who are Christ’s representatives. For, as His representatives on this earth, Christians must be imitators of Jesus Christ and God (see 1 Corinthians 11:1 and Ephesians 5:1). As you consider the specific things identified in this text, recognize that these things are not fitting for those who are representatives of Jesus Christ because they do not fit with the holy life Jesus lived on this earth or with the holy ways God calls His people to live.

Colossians 3:5-11 says, “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.”

Using your body to fulfill your own physical desires. Pursuing physical things above the desires of God. Demonstrating anger, wrath, and malice that are contrary to the love and patience God desires. Speaking in ways that harm others and fail to point people to Jesus Christ. These are all things that have absolutely no place in the life of a person who is a representative of Jesus Christ and His kingdom on this earth! Therefore, I want you to notice the very strong language that is used concerning these types of unrighteous activity. All of your members that are “on the earth” (devoted to fulfilling earthly desires rather than God’s desires) must be “put to death.” They are not to be temporarily halted. They are not to be slowed down. They are to be *killed* so that they have no part in the life that you live on this earth! After all, these are the kinds of activities that cause an individual to be subject to God’s wrath and created the need for Jesus Christ to come to earth and die in the first place!

Put on

Instead of living according to these old ways that are full of unrighteousness, Christ’s representatives are to have “put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him” (Colossians 3:10). Notice, then, that the kind of character that will be depicted in Colossians 3:12-17 is fitting with the character of Jesus Christ when He walked on this earth.

Colossians 3:12-17 says, “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

Holiness. Compassion. Kindness. Humility. Gentleness. Patience in suffering wrong. Willingness to bear with others. Forgiveness shown toward those who have wronged you. Love toward all people. A heart filled with the peace from God that surpasses all understanding. A mind that is filled with the word of Christ. Teaching and admonishing others through the singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. A commitment that whatever you say or do will be done by the authority of Jesus Christ. Thanksgiving expressed to the Father through Christ. These are central components of the Christian ambassador’s character. Without these things, an individual cannot accurately represent Jesus Christ or His kingdom on this earth! Then, Colossians 3:18-4:1 continues and demonstrates that even the relationships that the Christian ambassador has must be governed by the will of Christ (including his/her family relationships).

The Work Of Christian Ambassadorship

Though other passages would also be helpful in considering the character of the Christian ambassador, Colossians 3:1-17 has provided an excellent overview of things we needed to consider. The right character is necessary to make the work of a Christian ambassador the most effective and pleasing to God. Now, we need to spend some time considering the work that Christ has given to those who are His representatives on this earth.

Sacrificing

Everything that is involved in the work of a Christian ambassador requires sacrifice. Remember, Romans 12:1-2 depicts the responsibility of the Christian as presenting his/her body as a “living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.” And, this kind of complete sacrifice requires that the Christian not be involved in the sinful things of the world (i.e. the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of eyes, and the pride of life which belong to the world rather than belong to the Father, 1 John 2:15-17). Instead, the Christian must have

his/her mind transformed so as to focus on living according to the holy ways of God.

Therefore, whenever Jesus spoke about following Him, He told people about the sacrificial nature of true discipleship. For instance, in Luke 9:23, Jesus said, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” Then, He continued to demonstrate that the extent of this sacrifice was to be willing even to die for Him! In this way, Jesus demonstrates that living for Him and being His representative requires a focused determination and an understanding that your life is no longer about yourself. As I have already demonstrated in this lesson, your life is about Jesus Christ!

Setting a good example

In part, this was the focus of the previous section about developing the character Christ requires for the Christian ambassador. However, I want to take this a step further in recognizing the power of being what Christ desires His representatives to be. In Matthew 5:14-16, Jesus identifies His followers as being “the light of the world.” They are like an illuminated city that is set on top of a hill that is visible for miles around whenever it is dark. They are like a lamp that gives light to all who are in a house. And, this will be true whenever Christ’s representatives imitate Christ’s life because Jesus identified Himself as “the light of the world” (John 8:12).

But, notice one of the main things accomplished by working diligently to be who Christ desires you to be as His representative on earth. Matthew 5:16 says, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” In living a life that is consistent with the teachings of the gospel and the life that Jesus lived, you will point others to Christ through your very example! Every part of your life, then, is a constant message about the importance of living for Christ and shows what living for Christ every day looks like.

Teaching the gospel

Not only does Christ want His representatives to let their lives be a message that points people to Him; but, He wants His people to actually be telling others His saving message. Remember, this was the main focus of Paul whenever he wrote about being an ambassador for Christ in Ephesians 6 and 2 Corinthians 5. And, as we have already seen, this was a primary responsibility Jesus left into the hands of His disciples whenever He was preparing to leave this earth and ascend into Heaven (go back and review Matthew 28:18-20). They were entrusted with the tremendous responsibility of taking the word of reconciliation to those who were separated from God because of their sins!

And, as Paul had considered himself to have been “entrusted with the gospel” (1 Thessalonians 2:4), everyone who is a Christian today has been entrusted with this same wonderful saving message from God! The Christian ambassador is *not* permitted to neglect the responsibility of sharing this gospel with others. In fact, Jesus Christ wants to use you to share His saving message with the people you interact with and come into contact with. So, He expects those who are His representatives to be working diligently to grow in the faith and knowledge of the gospel’s message (see 2 Timothy 2:15) – because there is a point at which He expects all of His followers to be qualified to teach others the gospel (see Hebrews 5:12-14). After all, what kind of representative would you be for Jesus Christ if you were silently allowing those who are living around you die in their sins so that they will spend eternity in Hell fire?

Encouraging

Jesus was always encouraging people to serve God. He encouraged them to reflect on their own lives. He encouraged them to recognize the changes they needed to make and to make those changes. He encouraged them to listen to His teachings as He sought to instruct them in the ways of God. Jesus knew that there were many obstacles people face on this earth in order to serve Him faithfully. So, you can even watch Jesus as He

encouraged His disciples to overcome the schemes the devil would try to use to pull them away from following Christ.

Therefore, Jesus expects His earthly representatives to be diligently working to encourage others to follow Him. Even in all the words His people speak, Jesus wants His people to provide the “necessary edification” (Ephesians 4:29). Consider Hebrews 3:12-13. “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” Specifically, this text indicates that those who are Christians are expected to encourage their fellow ambassadors to overcome the schemes of the devil and live faithfully as representatives for Christ in foreign lands.

Serving

Jesus’ earthly life was the life of a servant. He even taught His disciples that He “did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). Now, Jesus did not make this statement to boast about His willingness to sacrifice. Instead, Jesus was addressing the subject of humbling oneself as a servant. In verse 27, He taught, “And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave.” Jesus perfectly demonstrated throughout the course of His life that His focus was on other people. And, the ultimate demonstration of this was Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross for the sins of the world.

Therefore, it is only reasonable for Jesus to expect His representatives on this earth to also be focused on serving others. Jesus, in teaching about serving, said, “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you” (John 13:14-15). The Christian ambassador, therefore, should be looking for opportunities to sacrificially serve and do good for others in this world. In fact, the apostle Paul said, “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10).

Showing hospitality

One of the ways you can serve is by demonstrating hospitality. Hospitality commonly involves using your home and your home’s resources to do good toward or entertain another. Showing hospitality is one of the best ways to build relationships, do good to those who are in need, encourage those who are followers of Christ, and teach the gospel to those who are unbelievers.

The responsibility of the Christian ambassador in showing hospitality should extend to both those who are Christians and those who are not. Romans 12:13 says that the Christian must be “given to hospitality.” For instance, Hebrews 13:2 says, “Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.” As you have opportunity, show your hospitality toward those who you do not even know. Although he did not use his home, Jesus taught a great example of this when he taught the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). And, 1 Peter 4:9-10 says, “Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” Remember, as Jesus pictures in Matthew 25:31-46, part of your judgment will involve how you have served and shown hospitality toward others.

Conclusion

As a Christian, you are an ambassador (representative) for Jesus Christ. There are a number of things that are involved in representing Christ during your life on this earth (even in addition to the things that have been mentioned in this study). Therefore, you need to consider how you have been representing Christ during the course of your life. You should be dedicating your life to Christ so that He will be pleased with your representation of Him whenever He returns for the final Judgment!

Study Questions

1. Christian Ambassadorship

What is an ambassador?

What did it mean for Paul to be an ambassador for Christ?

Why are all Christians ambassadors for Christ?

2. The Basics Of Christian Ambassadorship

Where must your citizenship be? What does this mean?

How should you view every member of your physical body as a representative of the King and the kingdom?

3. The Character Of The Christian Ambassador

Where must your focus be – according to Colossians 3:1-4?

What are some characteristics you must put off – according to Colossians 3:5-11?

What are some characteristics you must put on – according to Colossians 3:12-17?

4. The Work Of Christian Ambassadorship

How is sacrificing the work of the Christian ambassador?

How is setting a good example the work of the Christian ambassador?

How is teaching the gospel the work of the Christian ambassador?

How is encouraging the work of the Christian ambassador?

How is serving the work of the Christian ambassador?

How is showing hospitality the work of the Christian ambassador?