

We are Ambassadors for Christ

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

We are Ambassadors for Christ (v. 20)

I. What is an ambassador?

Emissary of a sovereign. An official representative in a foreign place.

A. If you are a Christian, you are an ambassador for Christ and His Kingdom.

What does that mean?

- You believe in Jesus Christ
- You belong to Jesus Christ
- You desire to and strive to become like Jesus Christ

B. What an Ambassador for Christ is not.

- Not the same—born again; regeneration; old passed, all things new (2 Cor. 5:17; 1 Pet. 1:22-23)
- Not your own—bought with a price; crucified with Christ; you are Christ's (1 Cor. 6:19-20; Gal. 2:20; 3:29)
- Not of this world—citizenship in Heaven, ambassadors, representative; mission and message (Philippians 3:20; Colossians 3:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:20)

II. Characteristics of an Ambassador (qualities; qualifications; responsibilities)

Knowledge, wisdom, and character—from Greg Koukl, STR, www.str.org

A. Knowledge—you have to know something (an accurately informed mind)

B. Wisdom—the ability and awareness to use and seek after knowledge (an artful method)

1. ability to use the knowledge you have
2. ability to seek knowledge when the need arises

C. Character—being a mature, steady, consistently godly person from the inside out (an attractive manner); from Greek *charakter* which means a mark or distinctive quality, such as the stamp from a seal, particularly from the signet ring of a ruler

These characteristics build on each other. Accurate knowledge blossoms into the art of wisdom, and wisdom develops into good, attractive character.

Knowledge for knowledge's sake “puffs up.” The accurate use of accurate knowledge is useful for

1. Forming and growing yourself (developing your character)
2. Weighing and measuring other things (discerning good or bad, right or wrong, whether something is neutral/ how neutral is it?)
3. Helping others grow and develop their character as well (influence, impact, and eventually mentorship and leadership).

“And those of the people who understand will instruct many” (Daniel 11:33).

Having and exhibiting good, godly character makes you attractive to other people. People, although sinful, are still by nature attracted to what is good. If you serve God and display righteous character, you will catch the eye of everyone because most people are not righteous and either don't even try to be or only try to a small extent and then stop. Still, all people intrinsically know deep in the core of their being that the Holy God requires absolute, perfect righteousness, and so all people have a tremendous respect for righteousness when they see it. However, although all people will notice godly character, they will not all react the same. Some will love you because they love God, but others will hate you and even war against you because you represent Jesus Christ (John 15:18-27).

Godly character—being strong, kind, trustworthy, faithful, etc.—makes you attractive to others. This is the real Law of Attraction. Not that fufu, get-everything-you-want-just-by-imagining-it idea being propagated by Oprah and her gurus and in the book The Secret. Don't fall for that. It doesn't work, but the real Law of Attraction works wonders.