

Sunday, January 7, 2018—Grace Life School of Theology—*Ambassadorship 101*—Lesson 1
Understanding the Nature of our Ambassadorship

Introduction

- We have seen many times in the past the Paul’s core ministry strategy included the following:
 - He **evangelized** strategic cities to establish a beachhead of believers.
 - He **edified** the new believes in sound doctrine.
 - He **established** the communities of believers into organized local churches.
 - He **enlisted** key men that could be trained to carry on the work and lead the churches in his absence.
 - He used the local churches as a base from which to **expand** the gospel into outlying communities.
- Acts 14:21-23—the local church has tree objectives which govern what we do and teach:
 - *Evangelism*—the proclamation of the gospel of grace to non-believers resulting in their conversion to Jesus Christ and membership in the local body of believers.
 - *Edification*—the equipping of the believers with sound doctrine so that they experience genuine spiritual growth which results in doctrinal unity, personal integrity, and corporate harmony.
 - *Expansion*—the sending and supporting of spiritually mature and properly trained workers into every community and culture of the world resulting in planting grace churches in every ethnic grouping.
- II Corinthians 5:19-20—every believer has been made an ambassador of Jesus Christ.
- The goal of this new series of studies to equip the saints of Grace Life Bible Church to be effective ambassadors for Jesus Christ.

Our Heavenly Conversation and Earthly Ambassadorship

- Philippians 3:10—the *Oxford English Dictionary* defines the English word “conversation” as it is used in this verse as follows”
 - †1. The action of living or having one's being *in a place* or *among* persons. Also *fig.* of one's spiritual being. *Obs.*
- As members of the body of Christ our “action of living” and “being” is in heaven. As believers, our living and being is in a place among and with other heavenly persons.

- Ephesians 1:20-23—God the Father exalted the Lord Jesus Christ to his own right hand in the heavenly places (Note the connection between “places” and the definition of “conversation.”). All things were placed under the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ and he was made head over all things to the church.
 - Revelation 12:7-8—“place” is not in italics and is referring to “any portion or space marked off, as it were from surrounding space. If Satan and his angels are expelled from “their place” in heaven. They are vacating the “heavenly places.” According to Ephesians 1, Christ was exalted far above all these “heavenly places.”
- Ephesians 2:5-6—as believers we have been raised with Christ and made to sit together with Christ in heavenly places. We see therefore that we truly do have a heavenly conversation. Our living, being, and place, is among other heavenly persons most notably the Lord Jesus Christ.
- II Corinthians 5:20—our place/conversation is in heaven. Yet, we find ourselves as Christ’s ambassadors on earth right now. The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines the English word “ambassador” as follows:
 - 1. a. n official messenger sent (singly, or as one of a party) by or to a sovereign or public body; an envoy, commissioner, or representative. *esp.*
 - b. A minister of high rank sent by one sovereign or state on a mission to another.
 - 2. A minister at a foreign court, of the highest rank, who there permanently represents his sovereign or country, and has a right to a personal interview with the sovereign or chief magistrate of the country in which he resides.
 - 3. An appointed or official messenger generally
- We are Christ’s representatives on earth, in Christ’s stead. The Godhead’s purpose was that Christ would not be here physically during the dispensation of grace so he left us here to represent him.
- Ephesians 6:20—Paul is the prime example of an ambassador in Christ’s stead. Paul represented the government of heaven of which He had been made a part. Therefore, Paul proclaimed God’s message of grace, peace, and reconciliation in the present evil world in which we live i.e., the mystery of the gospel.

Understating the Nature of Our Ambassadorship

- II Corinthians 5:20—the phrase “we are ambassadors” is a present tense statement of FACT. All believers, even the carnal Corinthians, ARE ambassadors in the present.

- II Corinthians 5:18—all believers have been given the ministry of reconciliation. This ministry and ambassadorship is part and parcel of our justification.
- Colossians 1:13—when you trusted the finished work of Christ you experienced a change of place or address. Not only were you taken out from under the power of darkness. Not only were you translated into the kingdom of his dear son. Not only were seated with him in heavenly places. But he gave you a ministry as his ambassador and representative to the very kingdom you were delivered from.
- I Corinthians 3:9—in the context Paul is referring to himself and Apollos as “laborers together with God.” We can say based upon II Cor. 5:20 that as ambassadors of Christ we do labor together to God. God is in the business of reconciling sinners unto himself. We labor with him in this business as representatives of the heavenly conversation of which we have been made a part.
- II Corinthians 5:20—in the stead of Christ, or in His place, we are beseeching men to be reconciled to God. Our job as ambassadors is to accurately deliver the message of the sovereign that commissioned us. If Christ were here, he would be beseeching men to be reconciled to God.
 - Verse 18—“. . . hath given unto us the ministry of reconciliation.”
 - Verse 19—“. . . and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation”
 - Verse 20—“. . . be ye reconciled to God.”