

## *Ambassadors of Christ*

### **2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

**17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 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. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

Countries have ambassadors. Even some businesses have what are called “Good Will Ambassadors.” That title sums up an ambassador’s charge quite well. Ambassadors are to create and maintain a climate of encouragement and support to whom they are dispatched. It is to be their goal and privilege as they go about their daily lives. The sending individual or group needs to supply the ambassador with resources which may be shared with the receiving person or people. They are also to be thoroughly equipped for their task.

Christ has fully equipped us to be his ambassadors. In Holy Baptism we were made part of God’s kingdom. Verse 17 declares that as we are in Christ we are a new creation. Luther tells that we should frequently remember our baptism. As we do so we are constantly made anew. Paul goes onto say “all this is from God.”

As a part of our ambassador training, God did all the heavy lifting. Through Christ he reconciled us to himself. Reconciliation is the removal of the barrier, caused by sin, between God and humanity. Christ’s death on the cross for the sin of the world is the way this barrier was removed. God did not count trespasses because he made Christ at Calvary took our sin upon himself and endured the punishment we deserved, namely, death and separation from God. Thus, by a marvelous exchange, he made it possible for us to receive his righteousness and thereby be reconciled to God. Our standing and our acceptance before God are solely in him (cf. 1Co 1:30). Again, all this is God’s doing; all this is freely available to us because of the initiative of divine grace. (CSB)

He gave us this message gift-wrapped. He trusted us. He also empowers us to share this good news with others. Christ’s love compels Paul to persevere through all hardships to make God’s offer of forgiveness and reconciliation plain to the people at Corinth. Too often we mute the Gospel’s power because of our pride, our carelessness, or our lack of concern for others. No greater honor can be given us than to be His ambassadors, His spokespeople. He not only saves us but also works through us.. (TLSB)

Prayer: What an honor to be your ambassador, dear Lord! Continue to deepen our understanding of your great reconciliation of the world in Christ so we might heartily revel in it with others. Amen. (TLSB)