



Gospel Ambassadors

This week's text – 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Sermon ideas

We love brands because they give us three things: identity, quality and functionality. But Jesus Christ is the only brand that we should be defined by, because he provides lasting fulfilment and he can always be counted on. There is nothing that compares to him, and because this is true, we should be inspired to live as ambassadors for the gospel. We should be a gospel ambassador for the following 4 reasons:

1. God is behind it

Because God is the one behind the gospel, it means that we can and should trust what he is doing in and through it, instead of trusting in ourselves. There is no greater identity than the one found in the gospel.

2. Christ has secured it

We are useless brand ambassadors of ourselves, because we cannot maintain a perfect image. Christ is the only one who can be a brand ambassador of himself because only he is able to consistently and truly represent God's righteousness. Yet, God calls still us to be ambassadors of the gospel. This is made possible because Jesus took our sin and shame onto the cross and paid the price for it. In exchange for our sin, he has gifted us his own righteousness. Instead of remaining in our sin and shame, without the ability to show his love to the world, we have been given his righteousness, which allows us to be his ambassadors. It is not us, in ourselves, but the gospel at work within us, that allows us to be his ambassadors.

3. We are redefined in it

God's love for us, given in the gospel, changes us. When God reconciles us to himself, he makes us into new creations. Our prior sinful nature is replaced with the righteousness of Christ, and instead of living for ourselves, we begin to live for him. Our lives become about him, and we display who he is in all areas of our lives, becoming his ambassadors to the world.

Our gospel identity allows us to live as Christ's ambassadors to the world, without us having to be perfect. We are not required to be perfect, because Christ is perfect on our behalf. Our unworthiness as ambassadors, never defames the gospel and its glory, because the gospel is secured in Christ's righteousness and not in our performance. The gospel does empower us to live differently though. It does not require us to perform but gives us the inner desire and power to live for Christ in ways that would never have been appealing or possible for us in the past.



Igniting our missional impulse

A study in the book of 2 Corinthians



4. The world is changed through it

God's plan is to save the world through the gospel, through US as its vehicle. He is calling us to each play a part in seeing the gospel reach the ends of the earth. We get to partner in this great mission by being his ambassadors.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to be an ambassador for the gospel?
2. Why is it only possible to be an ambassador for Christ, if we have truly been born again?
3. Knowing that we still battle with sin in this life could make us feel unworthy of being Christ's ambassadors. How does our new gospel identity challenge this thinking?
4. In what way does our new gospel identity empower us to be great ambassadors for Christ, and in what way have you seen this change as you have grown in your relationship with Christ over the years?
5. Why it is essential to the world that we live as Christ's ambassadors? (What is at stake if we don't take this role seriously?)
6. What is the one big take away that you feel God is asking you to take on this week, in light of this message?

