

## INSIGHT

Every independent nation has some government agency that handles foreign affairs. In the United States it is called the Department of State, and its chief officer is the secretary of state. In Great Britain it is the Foreign Office, whose chief officer is the foreign secretary. These agencies act under the direction of the head of government to carry out foreign policies.

Every foreign service agency sends out field agents who are stationed in foreign countries to protect and promote the interests of the nations from which they come. These agents are known as ambassadors.

This structure in government is also found within the kingdom of God. Like a nation whose head sends out representatives of its government, so does God send out ministers of His kingdom: servants that proclaim the message of the gospel. Paul saw himself as an ambassador of Christ (*Eph. 6:20; 2 Cor. 5:20*) and knew that his purpose was to bring hope through Jesus Christ. We too, as Christians, ought to see ourselves as ambassadors of Christ. People bringing the message of God's mercy to a lost and dying world.

Our duty is to evangelize the nations. The word *evangelism* is derived from the Greek word *euaggelion*, meaning "gospel" or "good news." The verbal forms of *euaggelizesthai*, meaning "to bring" or "to announce good news" occur over 50 times in the New Testament and are normally translated with the appropriate form of the word "preach." (*Lk 4:18; Acts 8:40; 1 Cor. 9:16*).

Let us not lose our focus and purpose as Christians. For we are God's ambassadors. He gave us the message of reconciliation, so that it may be passed on in us. Don't let the Gospel message die with you!

## Becoming Like Christ

### Evangelism, Boldness and Tact

**Key Text:** 2 Corinthians

**5:20** *We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.*

### Theme:

Evangelism requires us to be both bold and tactful. Many Christians go from one extreme to the other. They are so tactful that they say little or nothing, while others may be so bold that tact is thrown out the window. As disciples of Christ, we need to pray for boldness in preaching the gospel (*Eph. 6:19*). We also need to let our conversation be full of grace (*Col 4:6*). This can be learned through careful observation of those who are diplomatic.

### Application:

Here are some practical suggestions:

1. Let your life be a reflection of the beauty of the gospel.
2. Go evangelizing with someone regularly.
3. Set a weekly goal for visitors.
4. Make a list of all your relatives, friends, and co-workers who need to hear the gospel. Pray for them and share the message of Jesus with them.
5. Draw strength and wisdom from God through reading the Bible and prayer.
6. Take advantage of every opportunity. Whenever you come in contact with a soul, let them know of the saving grace of Christ--either by word or by a tract.

May the Lord richly bless you!

**SERMON OUTLINE**

**Ambassadors of Christ**

**I. How Can They Be Saved?**

**A. Romans 10:13-15**

1. God's four-step plan in reverse order
  - a. Believe the message--the gospel
  - b. Hear the message
  - c. Proclaim the message
  - d. An ambassador sent from God

**B. An Ambassador of Christ: 2 Cor.5:11f**

1. Ambassador defined
  - a *diplomatic official of the highest rank appointed as a representative in residence by one government to another.*
2. Applied in Christianity
  - a. Diplomat (skilled with people; tactful)
    - Col. 4:6 *Seasoned with salt*
    - 1 Pt. 3:15 *with gentleness...*
  - b. Appointed by God
    - chosen people (1 Pt 2:9)
    - goal: proclamation
  - c. Representative (spokesperson)
    - The message is from God
  - d. In residence (foreigners)
    - John 17:14--not of world*
    - Context: evangelism (*Jn 17:20*)

**II. Conclusion**

*"...go and proclaim the kingdom of God"*

**SMALL GROUP STUDY**

**Warm-up:**

If someone were trying to sell you a product, what will it take to persuade you to purchase the item?

**See To It**

**2 Corinthians 5:6-11**

1. What was Paul confident about?
2. What is our hope as Christians?
3. Explain verse 7 in light of the context of this passage.
4. What is the goal of the Christian in this present life?
5. From these verses, what motivated Paul to say "...we try to persuade men"?

**Seeing It Closer:**

1. What persuaded you to become a Christian?
2. What must we do in order to be effective in our persuading men with the gospel?
3. What would help us to be consistent in our evangelism?

**Getting To It:**

Pray for one another that each of us would boldly preach the gospel of salvation and have it in our hearts to try to persuade men.