

20 Minute Sermons Today

An Ambassador of the King

In December 1814 William Carey's son Felix resigned from his missionary work to become ambassador in Calcutta for the king of Burma. While most parents would have been proud of this appointment, his father was deeply hurt and wrote home, "Felix is shriveled from a missionary into an ambassador."¹ We, as Christians, aren't required to make the choice between a missionary and an ambassador because we are both! What's a missionary? *One who is sent*. What's an ambassador? *One who carries a message*? [Read John 20:21, 2 Cor 5:20.]

Have we not reached the world with the gospel? [Operation World states "probably 24-27% of the world's population have not had the good news presented to them in a way they could appreciate and meaningfully respond to." That translates to 2 billion individuals, one in four individuals, without any knowledge of the Savior!] You think we need missionaries and ambassadors?

The characteristics of an ambassador and how they relate to us as ambassadors of Christ:

1. **Must be a citizen of the nation represented.** This implies? Conversion from one citizenship to another, Col 1:13-14; see also 2 Cor 5:17, 20; Ac 26:18. [Preach the gospel here if led.]
2. **Must be commissioned,** 2 Cor 5:18-19 chief ministry is reconciliation; see also Matthew 28:18-20.
3. **Represents ruler and people.** Is every believer called to full-time Christian service? Is every believer called to full-time Christian living? No matter where we are, we represent Christ and his church—and people form their opinions of God and the gospel from what they see and hear in us. 2 Cor 4:5, we have one "presentation" and that is Christ, then why do we present another or even ourselves?
4. **Has all needs provided.** This in itself bears witness to the glory and strength of the nation that commissioned the ambassador. If you have every visited different embassies, then you know how easy it is to judge the nation by the things you see in the building. See Phil 4:19, who does God use to provide for Paul? What is the promise given to those who give to Paul? Who promised to give his presence with us? [Mt 28:18-20] Who or what is the great reward of Abram? [Gen 15:1]. Take home thought: "As long as you and I are on the King's business, seeking to honor his name and do his will, he will see to it that we receive all that we need. There is no need for his ambassadors to worry, for all the resources of heaven and earth are at their disposal, and he himself is with them wherever they go" (Warren Wiersbe).
5. **Keeps in touch with headquarters.** Touch base with Bible, touch base with church. Accountability, 2 Cor 5:10. The fact that we shall one day stand before Christ's judgment seat ought to encourage us to be faithful, and to avoid passing judgment on others. The ministry that we may think is deeply spiritual may in reality be very carnal, and a ministry that we think is unimportant may be one of the most important in God's kingdom.

Concluding thought: Jonah is a classic example of a disobedient ambassador. How did God deal with him? Discipline. He didn't cease to be God's child, but Jonah's joy, peace and effectiveness in his ambassadorship were forfeited. Last thought: **ambassadors are usually called home before war is declared**, John 14:1-6; 1 Thess 4:13-18. See also 1 Thess 5:9.

¹ Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be What You Are: 12 Intriguing Pictures of the Christian from the New Testament* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1988), 139.