

Ambassadors

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 ¹⁶ Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. ¹⁷ Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. ¹⁸ And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. ²¹ For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

The church is a community where we don't evaluate people "after the flesh." Paul says "we did that once with Jesus, but no more!"

Old things are gone – ALL things (before AND after conversion) are new!

God settled the relationship between us and Him – we were once His enemies, but are now His friends. He now gives us the privilege of making others His friends also.

How did He do this? Through forgiveness! How do we do this? In the same way! **The church is a FORGIVING INSTITUTION!**

We are AMBASSADORS, standing in Christ's stead. That brings great PRIVILEGE and great RESPONSIBILITY.

An ambassador is a diplomatic official of the highest rank, sent by one sovereign or state to another as its resident representative.

AMBASSADORS SPEAK AND ACT FOR THEIR HOME COUNTRY.

AMBASSADORS ENJOY DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.

AMBASSADORS ARE INVESTED WITH ALL THE POWER OF THEIR HOME COUNTRY.

IN THE EVENT OF WAR, AMBASSADORS ARE RECALLED BY THEIR HOME COUNTRY.

AN EMBASSY IS AN ISLAND OF SOVEREIGNTY, AND IS CONSIDERED TO STAND ON THE SOIL OF ITS HOMELAND.