

What is a Christian?

Ambassadors For Christ

Warm-Up Questions:

- What things are fundamental to our identities as Christians? Do these things characterize your life?
- What is an Ambassador? What does it mean to be an "Ambassador for Christ"?

READ: 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 19, 21

I. Ambassadors for Christ: The Message

- In your own words, how would you explain what the gospel is to someone in your life who doesn't know Jesus?
- The "scandal of the gospel" is that a terrorist who repents has the same standing before God as we do.
 - How do you feel about the "scandal of the gospel?"
 - What might your reaction teach you about your understanding of the gospel?
- "The gospel moves us from egocentricity to Christocentricity." What does this mean? How have you seen this play out in your own life?

II. Ambassadors for Christ: The Motivation

- Read 1 John 4:19 and Galatians 2:20--what is it that motivates and empowers us to be ambassadors?
- We have to soak up the love of Christ before we can love other people. What might be the consequence of getting the order wrong?

III. Ambassadors for Christ: The Ministry

- Why is it important that we declare the message not only in our words but in our deeds? What do they show about the scope of God's reconciling work?
- What is one tangible way you can seek to be an ambassador for Christ this week, in word or in deed?

"The gospel is not just a mechanism for getting people saved. It is the announcement of a love that has changed the world, a love that therefore takes the people who find themselves loved like this and sends them off to live and work in a totally new way. The energy to get up and go on as a Christian, as one who shares the gospel, therefore, comes not from a cold sense of duty, not from fear of being punished if you don't do your bit, but from the warm-hearted response of love to a love which has reached out, reached down, and reached you."

N.T. Wright