

Every Christian Is A Diplomat In The Making

2 Corinthians 5:20 [New King James] *“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”*

The apostle Paul tells us that we are ambassadors for Jesus Christ.

Before we look at the duties and needed qualities of an ambassador note the context of this statement by the apostle Paul, that makes us **an ambassador with a specific message.**

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 [New King James] *“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”*

We have the responsibility to preach the message of reconciliation between God and human beings.

Proclaiming such a message demands a complete change in our whole life, [verse 17].

Duties of an ambassador

The first thing required by a good diplomat is a knowledge of his or her government’s position on various issues.

We have to ask ourselves the question:

How well do I know the Creator God’s position on various issues?

An ambassador reads all kinds of position papers and strategy reports issued by the foreign affairs office to keep themselves abreast of where their government stands.

2 Timothy 2:15 [NIV] *“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”*

It is within the pages of God’s Word, the Christian Bible, that we find all we need to be able to represent the Kingdom of God, by knowing God’s views on every aspect of life.

A successful diplomat understands people and knows how to get along with them –

As ambassadors of Jesus Christ we need to be continually developing the ability to be sensitive to the feelings of others and to know what to say or to do in our relationships with them.

Tact is a required lubricant in dealing with people.

Tact is everyday personal diplomacy, always being aware of how our words or actions will be received by other people.

Tact is especially valuable in difficult situations.

2 Timothy 2:23-25 [New King James] *“But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,*

in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,”

The apostle Paul was careful not to do anything that would put a stumbling block in the way of anyone.

Paul did not want Christianity to be discredited or blamed because of any aspect of his life.

2 Corinthians 6:3-4 [New King James] *“We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses,”*

Even when what we represent as ambassadors of Jesus Christ may bring tribulations on us, we are to bear them patiently.

2 Timothy 2:19 [New King James] *“Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: ‘The Lord knows those who are His,’ and, ‘Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.’”*

Every ambassador of Jesus Christ must be living a life that is free from iniquity. The Greek word translated “*iniquity*” is “*adikia*” which means unjust, treacherous, unrighteousness whether with God or human conscience.

How to be tactful

Think well before we speak or act – especially when a situation is making you feel angry. Such a pause for forethought will help you avoid words or actions you will later regret.

Remember that every story has two sides – try to look at the other person’s side before we speak. How the situation is seen by them.

Be courteous – if you are unable to listen just now, say so politely, but do **not** put off others exciting news or important questions too long.

Don’t anticipate what the other person is about to say –

Proverbs 18:13 [New King James] *“He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him.”*

To interrupt the other person before they have finished is showing a total lack of tact.

Answer all questions – remember the person would **not** have asked the question if it was not important to them. If you do not know the answer, admit it. Say you will think it over and answer tomorrow or find the answer.

Be slow to criticise – people know when they have not tried or not done a good job. If you have to criticise, do it gently and constructively.

Reminding and thanking them for the good work they have done in the past, and are confident they will do in the future.

A tactful person makes good use of the words ‘please’ and ‘thankful’ – this will show that you are really interested in the person with whom you are having a conversation, that they are not just one in the crowd.

Other words we can use in a personal one-to-one conversation are ‘**special**’ and ‘**precious**’, for every human being is that to our Creator God, Whom we are representing as His ambassador.