



Links Players

Fundamentals - Lesson 5: "S" is for Sharing Christ Ambassadors For Christ

...we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor. 5: 20-21)

If you were to google the phrase "Ambassador of Golf," you would spend a great deal of time having to narrow down the search. Try it, and you will see what I mean.

You will quickly discover that innumerable companies have named a particular person as their "ambassador." Stay with it for a fair bit of time and you will find this word "ambassador" refers to a player who presumably represents the company's values.

This, obviously, doesn't surprise American golfers. We have grown accustomed to seeing most players representing such-and-such brand on their hats, visors, bags, and occasionally, shoes. The "trick" for the company is to find that player who authentically mirrors the company's values.

If we dig through our mental archives to connect players to brands, we could easily come up with dozens of examples: Arnie and Pennzoil (I can still see the tractor!), Freddie and Ashworth, Ricky and Puma, and Tiger and Nike. We could also, unfortunately, come up with those companies who had to drop their ambassador due to moral or criminal failure. I'll leave this last one up to you.

What is true in corporate marketing, is exponentially truer when it comes to representing the King and his kingdom. Jesus has called us to the high calling of marching under the banner which bears his insignia—the cross.

As Christians, we have the joy of representing our King in our conduct and communication. We also have the weighty responsibility of insuring that our conduct corresponds with the dignity of the office and that the content of our message faithfully represents his commandments.

Furthermore, we cannot divorce the two. We often hear people attribute Francis of Assisi with saying, "Preach the Gospel and if necessary, use words?" There are at least two problems with this: One—He never said it,

and Two—it is not biblical. Our behavior, by biblical standards, is to be above reproach. Our speech is to be seasoned, as it were, with salt.

Our lives become the platform from which our words are believable. The words we share must, of necessity, accurately represent what our King has inscribed. Combining kingdom conduct and the King's word is the gospel. And the gospel is the power of God unto salvation.

Finally, I urge you to notice why Paul is saying we are ambassadors. We share the gospel with others primarily because men and women need to reconciliation. Which is to say, apart from Christ's mediation, they are alienated from God. Apart from Christ's reconciling work, men and women are "...dead in your trespasses and sin" (Eph. 2: 1-10).

Prayer – Jesus, empower your people to proclaim the gospel boldly to those alienated from you. Open the doors of opportunity and give us the courage to walk through them.

READING - Ephesians 2:1-10; Titus 3: 3-8; Matthew 28: 16-20

OPENING QUESTIONS: Have you ever represented your club in team competition? What would it look like if you showed up on the first tee wearing the opposing team's uniforms?

1. According to **Ephesians 2:1-10**, Paul characterizes believers in before and after categories. What is our condition before knowing Christ (verses 1-3)? What happens to effect such a massive change (verses 4-9)? What are we to be involved in after coming to Christ (verse 10)?

2. In **Titus 3:3-8**, Paul essentially says the same things he said in Ephesus. Describe the before and after of a person's life who has responded in faith to Jesus.

3. In **Matthew 28:16-20**, Matthew describes Jesus' parting words before his ascension to the throne of heaven. What are the four components that make up the Great Commission? Hint: each component has an "all" involved in it. All? All? All? Always? (in the original language it is "all the days.") Is this the same as "winning people to Christ?"
