**"Engage in Mission"**

***Overview***

Have you ever had the opportunity to meet royalty? It must surely be an extraordinary experience. And while it may not involve the pomp and pageantry that it once did, it most likely is still an event a person would not soon forget.



Now imagine what it would be like if you not only had the opportunity to greet royalty but also were granted the privilege of working for them? What if you were tasked with acting as an agent of a great and powerful monarch?

This is not a fanciful daydream but the reality of every follower of Christ. This lesson will consider the privilege and the responsibility that each disciple of Christ bears in serving as an ambassador of the King of Kings!!

***Getting Started*** *In the Presence of Royalty*



1. Who is the most famous person you have ever met? What were the

circumstances? How did that meeting impact you?

2. Who (besides members of your own family) is "royalty" to you and why?

3. Would you like to be the king or queen of a country? Why or why not?

***The Text***



17Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 18All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**6** As God’s co-workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain.

2 Cor. 5:17 - 6:1 (NIV)

***The Audio (optional)***

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"Engage in Mission" - by Kyle Corbin, Oct. 6/19

NOTES:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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***Understanding***

1. Verse 17 begins with the word "Therefore". What is the conclusion Paul comes to in this verse? On what reasoning is it based (try following his argument beginning in verse 14)?



2. In what sense are we a "new creation" in Christ (look at vs. 16, 1 Cor. 6:9-11,

Rom. 8:19-23)? What is the "old" that has passed away? Is there any way in which the "new" is yet to come and the "old" still lingers (cf. Gal. 5:15-26)?

3. What is the source of all this "newness" (vs. 18)? What has been the result of God's creative work (vs. 19, 21)? What is the extent of God's reconciling work (vs. 19, see also Rom. 1:18-32, 2:5-1; Eph. 5:3-6)?

4. What is the task that God has entrusted to us (vs. 20-21)? What motivation do you see in these verses for us to take up such a task?

5. The Greek word which is translated "ambassador" implies... "an older person or the eldest person in a group .... appointed as a spokesman to represent a king, a ruler, or a community. In Jewish circles, this person was .... one who would speak the exact words of his sender." (Kistemaker, S. J., & Hendriksen, W. (1953–2001). [*Exposition of the Second Epistle to the Corinthians*](https://ref.ly/logosres/bkrc-2co?ref=Bible.2Co5.20&off=742&ctx=assador%E2%80%9D).+The+word+~implies+that+an+olde) (Vol. 19, p. 198)). What is the significance of Paul choosing this word to describe the task God has given us? What are the different ways (verbal and non-verbal) that we can act as Christ's ambassador?

6. How are we "co-workers with God" (6:1)? How is it possible for us to "receive God's grace in vain" (6:1)? What is Paul warning us about here (consider also 5:15 and 1 Cor. 15:58)?

***Applying***

1. How easy is it for you to be engaged as "an ambassador for Christ"? Is this something that you find easy to do? What makes it easy (or hard) for you?



2. What are the ways in which God's grace has touched and impacted your life (i.e. what do you have to share to point people to Christ)?

3. There can be many different ways or methods that we can use to share the incredible message of God's saving grace. They include confrontation, intellectual debate, relationship-building, sharing testimony, serving, and others. What do you think is your preferred style for connecting with others so you might have an opportunity to share your faith?

4. Is acting as Christ's ambassador a priority in your life? If so, how do you maintain it as a priority? If not, what might you do to make it more of a priority?

5. Share with your group the people in your life who need to know Christ. If you do not know of anyone, consider how you might take steps to include not- yet followers of Christ in your life.\* How might you BLESS this week?:

B - Begin with prayer

L - Listen (to God and people)

E - Eat (with people)

S - Serve (someone in need)

S - Story (share who Jesus is)

\* Take some time praying for these people and these steps.

***Memory Verse(s)***



We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NIV)

***Extra Resources***

* *"Engage in Mission"* by Pastor Kyle Corbin ("Immanuel Church" website, Oct. 6, 2019). Pastor Kyle explains how Paul's second letter to the Corinthians emphasizes the responsibility we have to share Christ.



* *"The Heart of the Ministry of the Church: The Gospel"* by Millard J. Erickson (Christian Theology, Baker Book House, 1983, pp. 1059-1067). This section of Erickson's systematic theology details how the gospel gives basic shape to everything the church does.
* *"Life-Style Evangelism"* by Joseph C. Aldrich (Multnomah, 1981). This older classic outlines a strategy of sharing Christ by making space in our day-to-day lives for those who have yet to meet Jesus.