

*'An official envoy, a diplomatic agent of the highest rank accredited to a foreign government or sovereign as the representative of his own government, an authorized representative or messenger.'* - Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary

The apostle Paul was an ambassador for the kingdom of Jesus Christ. He says we are too! Read 2 Corinthians 5 for the full context.

As new creations in Christ, we have been reconciled to God and now we are his ambassadors to share the message that God is reconciling the world to himself **in Christ**, not counting the sins of the people against them.

*We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God was making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain .....I tell you now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. - 2 Corinthians 5:20-21, 6:1-2.*

Jesus has paid for the sins of all mankind, but we must receive this benefit by receiving Jesus into our lives as Savior. We must also confess Jesus is Lord and submit to his full rule in our lives. **God's will** is that all person's be saved. There was a lawyer in America who went back to Ireland to find persons who were included in the will of their Irish relative in America. In order to receive the benefit of the will, they needed to hear about it and receive it. The lawyer's job was let the person know how rich they were. (see our message about **Receiving Your Inheritance**)

Paul knew what an honor it was to represent Jesus, the king of all kings. It was a kingdom above all other earthly kingdoms. His job was to speak God's words and purposes to the world. In the Roman Empire, to be an ambassador was considered a very high honor. They had to know the mind of the potentate that was sending them and be worthy of their trust. The ambassador would often have no contact with their sending authority for months and even longer. He was sent off to a distant part of the empire to **represent the interests of the ruler who had sent him.....not his own interests**. He would have to make decisions just as if the ruler who sent him was right there making that decision. The ambassador must know the heart and mind of the king who had sent him.

Quite often the kings of that day would recall the ambassadors after just two or three years of service as they did not want their ambassador becoming too sympathetic with the views of the place they had been sent to.

As Christians, we are ambassadors for the kingdom of Jesus. **It is not our opinion that matters**. As we read the constitution of his kingdom; the Holy Bible, we see what his view is. Jesus is a friend of sinners and has compassion upon all people, including the worst of sinners. He commissioned his ambassadors to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins. However, his views are clear regarding those who choose a lifestyle of sin. He told people - 'Go and sin no more. Repentance includes a change of mind, turning from sin and turning to Jesus and His kingdom. Just like any country, there must be borders and laws to protect those who are in that kingdom or country, otherwise there will be chaos and confusion. To live in God's kingdom, one must consent to the standards of the king.

# NO ENTRY TO THE KINGDOM

The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God. 1 Corinthians 6:9

Those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:1

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Ephesians 5:6

It is extremely rare to hear a message based on the following scriptures. Early on in the discipleship process I feel it is important to cover them. Note how these **lifestyle sins** are put into one of three different categories. God covers all areas of life.

	<u>Sexual</u>	<u>Social</u>	<u>Spiritual</u>
1 Corinthians 6:9-11	fornicators/adulterers homosexuals/sodomites	thieves/covetous, drunkards revilers, extortioners	idolaters
Galatians 5:19-21	adultery, fornication lewdness, uncleanness	hatred, contentions, jealousies outbursts of wrath, dissensions, selfish ambitions, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries	sorcery, heresies
Ephesians 5:3-8	fornication, uncleanness	covetousness, foolish talking, coarse jesting, filthiness	idolater
Revelation 21:6-8	sexually immoral abominable	murderers	liars, cowardly, unbelieving, sorcerers, idolaters
Revelation 22:14-15	sexually immoral	murderers	dogs, sorcerers, idolaters practicing liars

Proverbs 6:16-19 Seven sins are abominable / detestable to God (3 are of the tongue)

- Proud look
- Lying tongue
- Hands that shed innocent blood
- Heart that devises wicked schemes
- Feet that are swift in running to evil
- A false witness who speaks lies
- One who sows discord among brothers

When I disciple new Christians, early on in the process, I have them read the above passages. As ambassadors of Christ, **we must know the heart and mind of our King**. He knows that we stumble and fall in our walk, but it is clear that anyone who lives a lifestyle of sinning with no plans to change, will not inherit the kingdom of heaven. How could heaven be heaven if there were people there whose heart was still bent on sin and rebellion against the King's wishes?

St. Paul lived and preached as a true ambassador of the kingdom. He proclaimed the **whole will** of God and thus was innocent of the blood of all men. - Acts 20:25-31. He knew that **all scripture** is profitable for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training. He could not just give the people what they wanted, but what they needed. - 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 4:2-5. Galatians 1:10.

The true gospel of Jesus Christ is accompanied by signs, wonders and miracles. It is also accompanied by **warnings**. Jesus gave plenty of them. His severest warnings were for 'religious' leaders who were selfish, self-serving and self-indulgent. Read Matthew 23. Jesus drove the religious hucksters (the money-changers) out of the temple at the beginning of his ministry (John 2:12) and near the end of it (Matthew 21:12-13). He gave his harshest warning for Capernaum. It was a very religious city with 3 rabbinical schools. Jesus said that at the judgment, it would be more tolerable for wicked Sodom (sexual perversion and greed) than unbelieving religious Capernaum.

God has called all Christians to be the ambassadors of King Jesus and his kingdom to a foreign land, which is planet earth and its worldly kingdoms.

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