

Witnessing

All through human history the Word of the Lord has come to men and women. They / We in turn have been given the responsibility to carry these words to the world:

- **Patriarchs:** Abraham (Gen 15)
- **Prophets:** Samuel (1Sam 15:10); Elijah (1King 17:2); Jeremiah (Jer 1:1-2)
- **Priests / Nation:** Israel (Ex 19:6)
- **Priesthood of Believers in the Church Age (CA):** Every Believer in the CA is a royal priest. (1Pt 2:5, 9)

Every Believer in the CA has the same opportunity to know the depths of God's Word. Every Believer in the CA is called into full time Christian service as a priest and an ambassador for Christ. Each of us has the responsibility to witness to the world about the gospel of Christ so that they, the world might see and hear that witness - and be saved.

(1 Tim 2:4) Who wants all men to be saved & to come to knowledge of the truth? God wants everyone to be saved – we are the messengers of the gospel

1. Every believer in the church age is in full time Christian service.

- (1Cor 6:19-20) Bought with a price; belong to Christ; I/HS – temple of GHS
(1Pt 2:9) Every Believer is a royal priest – represent self / others to God
(Mt 28:19-20) Every Believer is under the imperative of the Great Commission
- **Vertical** – priesthood – relationship to God
 - **Horizontal** – ambassadorship – representing God to the world

2. Every believer in the church age is appointed as an Ambassador (2Cor 5:20)

presbeuo literally means to be an ambassador or envoy. Figuratively, in the NT [apostolic ministry] it means to be an ambassador, to be a representative sent by Christ. [Freiberg; used especially of the emperor's legates – Bauer, Gingrich & Danker pg 699]; “There is a suggestion that to be an ambassador for Christ involves the experience suggested by the word elder” [Vines pg 55].

- The word **presbeuo** in the ancient world indicated an ambassador from the king.
- Kings chose men of experience, wisdom and age to represent them
- Related to the word **presbuteros** – old man, elder, leader, man of rank
- Ambassadors for Christ must be prepared and knowledgeable

3. Definition & description of an ambassador for Christ

Definition: an official of a government that represents that government to other nations

- Government Christ the King is the head of the divine government
- Other nation Devil's world where we live as we represent Christ
- Individuals Every Believer is a spokesman for Jesus the King

Description

- An ambassador does not appoint himself
- An ambassador does not support himself (Phil 4:19; 2Cor 9:8)
- An ambassador does not belong to the country where he is sent (Eph 2:19; 1Pt 2:11)
- Ambassador has written instructions (1Cor 2:16; 2Pt 1:19-20)
- Does not take insults personally (Jn 12:47-48)
- Not working for his own personal interests (Mt 6:24)
- Ambassadors are withdrawn when war is declared (1Thes 4:16-17) [Rapture]

4. Ambassador for Christ delivers the Kings message – reconciliation (2Cor 5:14-21)

- Vs.14 – motivation – love of Christ – love for Christ and love of Christ in us
- Vs.16 – viewpoint – no more human viewpoint – know Christ kata flesh
- Vs.17 – Inner change – new creation – new position and spiritual capacities
- Vs.18-20 – ministry of reconciliation – God was in Christ and Christ is in us reconciling the world to Himself
- Vs.21 – Imputation – our sin imputed to Christ; His +R imputed to us

5. Ambassadors for Christ deliver the message in 2 different ways – Life & Lips

Witness of the Life (2Cor 3:3) "Being manifested that you are a letter from Christ, having been cared for by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tables of stone, but on the tablets of the human heart."

- (Gal 5:22-23) - Mature Believer manifesting the fruit GHS
- (Jn 17:23) - Unity of the church demonstrating that GF sent Christ
- (2Cor 6:3) - Not causing others to stumble that the ministry be not discredited

Witness of the Lips (1Pt 3:15) "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the **reason for the hope** that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect".

- Witness / Lips is communicating the Gospel to an unbeliever on a personal basis.
- It is personal evangelism rather than mass evangelism.
- It is informal, conversational, with one individual sharing the Gospel to another

Message of hope (1Cor 15:3-4)

(Vs.3) "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, (Vs.4) that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures"

(Romans 1:16) "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile."

(John 10:28) "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. (Vs.29) "My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand."