

Ambassadorial Representation

Ambassadors of the Kingdom of God

- 1) 2 Co 5:20 “Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God”
- 2) Ambassadors (Greek) G4243. πρεσβεύω presbeuō; from the base of 4245; to be a senior, i.e. (by implication) act as a representative (figuratively, preacher): — be an ambassador.
- 3) Ambassador defined: Merriam Webster 1: an official envoy; *especially*: a diplomatic agent of the highest rank accredited to a foreign government or sovereign as the resident representative of his or her own government or sovereign or appointed for a special and often temporary diplomatic assignment <*She's the American ambassador to Italy.*>
 - a) An official envoy: Merriam Webster 1 a: a minister plenipotentiary accredited to a foreign government who ranks between an ambassador and a minister resident —called also *envoy extraordinary*. b: a person delegated to represent one government in its dealings with another
 - i) Plenipotentiary: 1: invested with full power
 - ii) Plenipotentiary (n) 1: a person and especially a diplomatic agent invested with full power to transact business
 - iii) The adjective *plenipotentiary* is typically used, as in our second example, after the noun it modifies in the ranking of diplomatic hierarchy. *Plenipotentiary* gets its power from its Latin roots: *plenus*, meaning "full," and *potens*, "powerful." When government leaders dispatch their ambassador plenipotentiary, minister plenipotentiary, or envoy plenipotentiary, they are not just sending an agent to deal with foreign affairs but one having full power to act on the behalf of his or her country and government.
 - b) A resident representative

But more than that

- 1) More than just an Ambassador
 - a) Sons
 - b) Heirs
 - c) Joint-heirs / Equal heirs with or of Christ

2) Viceroy

- a) 1: the governor of a country or province who rules as the representative of a king or sovereign
- b) Vice: in the place of
- c) Roi: king
- d) The viceroy is sent as the king, to represent the king to another place or people

3) Rulers

- a) We are sons by birth but rulers by choice
- b) Isa 9:6 “Unto us a child is born; unto us a son is given”
- c) We are called to rule:
 - i) Rev 5:9-10 “And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”
 - ii) Rom 5:17 “reign as kings in this life”

4) Rulers must be trained

- a) But why?
 - i) Ecc 10:16 “Woe to the land when the king is a child!”
 - ii) Isa 3:12 “As *for* my people, children *are* their oppressors”
 - iii) Gal 4:1 “Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all”
 - iv) Five levels of sonship: nepios, padion, teknon, neanniskos, huios
 - v) The goal is exact representation just like the Pattern Son functioned: Heb 1:3 NIV “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.”
 - vi) We are sent to represent

A critical insertion!

1) Who is sent?

2) Who is called?

3) Is only the missionary sent? Only the pastor / church planter sent? Only the five-fold minister? Only, only, only! How much of our man-made religious culture is influencing our mindsets and obscuring how we see the kingdom of God, it’s government and a rising Holy Nation??

All Are Called (Gifts and Callings)

I. Foundation

- A. Exodus 19:6 “A Kingdom of Priests” (Israel and the house of Jacob)
- B. Ephesians 4:16 *“From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”*
 - 1. A bone is not a joint
 - 2. Every joint supplies
 - 3. Effectual working in the measure of every part
- C. 1 Corinthians 12:18-23 *“But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.”*
- D. Romans 11:29—“For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance”
- E. 2 Peter 1:10—“make your calling and election sure” (READ VSS 10 & 11)

II. All Are Called

- A. Ascension and Descension
 - 1. Jesus went up=gave to some—Ephesians 4:10
 - 2. Holy Spirit came down=gave to all—Acts 2:1-4, 16-18 (Joel 2)
- B. Every One-Descension
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 12:18—Every one in the body
 - 2. Romans 12:3,6—Having gifts differing – all
 - 3. 1 Peter 4:10—As every man has received
 - 4. 1 Corinthians 12:7—The manifestation given to every
 - 5. 1 Corinthians 14:26—Every one hath
 - 6. 1 Corinthians 14:31—all may prophesy
- C. Some-Ascension
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 12:28—Some in the Church, first apostles....
 - 2. Ephesians 4:11—Jesus gave some apostles, some prophets....
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 12:29—all are not prophets

Examples Of Some / All

- Prophets—Ephesians 4:11
- Manifestations of the Spirit—1 Corinthians 12:10
- Resident gifts—Romans 12:6
- Spirit of prophecy—Revelation 19:10

III. Gifts

A. Division of Labor

1. The Resident Gifts: Romans 12:4-8
2. The Manifesting Gifts: 1 Corinthians 12:7-11
3. The Equipping Gifts: Ephesians 4:11-12

B. Gifts not Offices of Service

1. Elder
2. Deacon
3. Helps

C. Gifts not “Ministries”

1. Bus Ministry, Nursing Home Ministry, Pie Baking Ministry, etc.
2. It is important for a person to understand what their particular gifts are and become more proficient in functioning in such a way so as to better co-operate with the grace given to / installed in them
3. God didn't gift you so that you could build yourself a ministry; He gifted you so that you could build a life pleasing to Him and so that you would build the spiritual lives of others

IV. Callings

A. Calling Defined

1. G2821. klesis, klay'-sis; from a shorter form of G2564; an invitation (fig.):--calling, vocation.
2. An Invitation (into the grace of God)
3. Ephesians 4:1—"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called"
 - a. Your calling is your vocation
 - b. Your calling is not your occupation—you are to be completely pre-occupied with Jesus and your devotion to Him!!
 - c. Don't ever fall for the idea that your life is compartmentalized!! E.g. "sacred and secular", "spiritual and natural", "inward and outward"
4. Answering the Call
 - a. 1 Corinthians 1:26 "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:"
 - b. Many are called—Matthew 22:14 (parable of the wedding feast where most refused the invitation)
5. The Nature of the Calling
 - a. High—Philippians 3:14
 - b. Holy—2 Timothy 1:9
 - c. Heavenly—Hebrews 3:1

B. Callings Differ

1. Even if the giftings are identical

2. e.g. Paul to the Gentiles; Peter to the Jews

C. Stay in your calling—1 Corinthians 7:20 “Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.”

V. Your Anointing

A. You have received an anointing—1 John 2:20

B. It (He) will teach you—1 John 2:27

C. Abide (stay, remain) in Him (it)—1 John 2:27

D. Legitimate Province / Proper Limit

1. 2 Corinthians 10:12-15 Amplified (READ THIS FROM THE AMPLIFIED)

2. Vs. 13—keep within the limits of our commission

3. Vs. 14—not overstepping the limits / not stretching beyond our ability / no legitimate mission (Matthew 7:22-23 prophecy, casting out demons and miracles are called “works of iniquity” by Jesus)

E. I am what I am by the grace of God—1 Corinthians 15:10-11

F. Don’t have an exaggerated opinion of yourself—Romans 12:3

G. Don’t underestimate your significance in the Body and to the world—1 Corinthians 12:22 NIV “indispensable” <Significance VS Prominence>

VI. Proving Your Own Work

A. Philippians 2:19-23—The proof of Him

B. 2 Corinthians 2:9—The proof of you – obedience

C. 2 Corinthians 13:5—Examine, prove, know

D. Galatians 6:4—Prove your own work