

## **AMBASSADORS OF CHRIST**

2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2

### **Awareness**

Before listening, reflect:

- How would you describe the role and purpose of an ambassador?
- Why do we need ambassadors? Why might God choose to use ambassadors?

When seeking guidance for evangelism and witness, 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2 is a valuable passage to study. The Apostle Paul declares that, as Christ's followers, we are ambassadors of Christ and explains that the message we share, though not about us, starts with us. In order to represent Christ well as his ambassador, Paul pleads that we first be reconciled to God. This reconciliation will compel us to evidence reconciliation in our lives and God will make his appeal to others through our witness. This is the ministry to which God calls us.

### **Reflection**

After listening, consider:

- In 2 Corinthians 5:20, Paul calls you an ambassador of Christ, as if God is making his appeal to the world through you. What reactions, thoughts, and feelings does that idea stir up in you?
- What are you doing to assure that you remain in tune with the mind and heart of our sovereign God for whom you are an ambassador?
- What is reconciliation? Why does God's mission of reconciliation seem so crazy to the world? What makes reconciliation difficult for us to practice in our own lives?
- How does the ministry of reconciliation relate to and affect our witness to the gospel?

### **Related Passages**

- **1 Corinthians 4**
- **Ephesians 6:18-20**

### **Conclusion**

Consider these thoughts from N.T. Wright on 2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2 in his commentary *Paul For Everyone: 2 Corinthians*:

*“But how is this possible? As he [Paul] asked in 2:16, who is capable of being God’s agent in this extraordinary work? The answer is in the cross, on which God made the sinless Messiah to ‘be sin’ on our behalf. All our sins, our failings, our inadequacies, were somehow dealt with there, so that we—the apostles, and all who are called to be ‘ministers of reconciliation’—could embody in our own lives the faithfulness of God.”*

Reflect on this quote and write down or discuss with someone what it means that God has called you to be a minister of reconciliation and made it possible for you to embody the faithfulness of God in your own life.

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