

5 Oct 2014: Preached by Elder John Leong

Topic: **The Christian Ambassador**

Scripture Text: 2 Cor 5:18-21

1. The Christian is given the high privilege and honour to be called ambassadors for Christ (v.20). An ambassador is both a messenger and a representative. For a Christian Ambassador, he must be a messenger for God to declare God's words and not his own words and opinions. He is also the representative for God to speak and act like God representing the Heavenly Home.

2. The message from God is a message of reconciliation. The Christian ambassador must declare this message faithfully. The message of reconciliation tells us that:

a) God is the reconciler (v. 18, 19). Although God was the offended party by sinful men, He took the step of reconciliation towards mankind. The source of reconciliation comes from God and it is His will to seek reconciliation with sinful men.

b) God is the Forgiver (v. 19). For God to reconcile with men, He must remove all sins in our lives. God said that He will not impute our trespasses unto us. This means He will forgive all our sins, past, present and future. He will see us as though we have not sinned.

c) God is the Substitute (v.21). A just God requires every sin to be punished. It is either the sinner has to be punished or his substitute. There is only One Substitute who has no sin to take away all our sins, He is none other than Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God. He became a man for us to die on the cross for our sins that we might have His righteousness.

3. The Christian Ambassador must declare this message of reconciliation the way God would do it. In verse 20, God would beseech sinful men to be reconciled to Him, This means He would beg, plead and urge sinful men to repent to turn to Him. The Christian must do so as representative of God. We do not judge or condemn unbelievers but rather earnestly plead for their salvation in Christ.

4. Man's heart is so hardened by sin and they love darkness rather than light. Hence, a Christian Ambassador must labour hard to win souls for Christ and be prepared to receive rejection and reproach for Christ's sake. Let us be faithful and obedient to answer our duty as God's ambassador.