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## II Corinthians 5:17-21

17. “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

18. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

19. namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

20. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

21. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

In this Scripture passage Christians are identified as ambassadors for Christ.

By definition an ambassador is “a diplomatic representative sent by one government or ruler to another. The ambassador lives in the foreign country to which he is assigned and speaks and acts in behalf of his government or ruler.” It is understood that the

ambassador does not make or alter policy decisions given to him. But he is responsible to clearly and accurately communicate policy to the foreign nation to which he is assigned. He is to be as diplomatic as possible without compromising his nation or ruler's position.

Philippians 3:20 indicates that Christians are now citizens of the kingdom of heaven. Jesus is now our King. And we are assigned to be ambassadors in the communities and nations where God has placed us.

The laws and policies, so to speak, of the kingdom of heaven are written in the Bible. We as ambassadors have a duty to "rightly divide" or "handle accurately" the truths given to us in God's Word. Then we are to share the Word with those out in the world.

In a real sense, Jesus has a policy of unlimited immigration into the kingdom of heaven. Our job assignment is to clearly and accurately transmit the terms of citizenship in the kingdom of heaven. The requirements and procedures to become and remain a good citizen of God's kingdom are all detailed in the Bible. In Biblical terminology, this is the gospel of Jesus Christ. As ambassadors for Jesus, we are to proclaim His gospel to all the nations of the world so they can believe and obey.

Now, the rulers of this world often don't like it when people emigrate out of their nation to the kingdom of Christ. So the ambassador for Christ must be as

diplomatic as possible. The Bible says we are to speak the truth in love. Also we are directed to submit to the governing authorities, honestly pay our taxes, honor the king (in our case the president), and do what is right in the sight of all men in the nation where our physical body resides.

We are to be such a good example that even our enemies will come to respect us, because of our kind words and good deeds, even if they never agree with our Lord.

The ambassador for Christ must never ever compromise the Word of God--regardless of His personal feelings. The hardest thing I have had to come to terms with so far in my Christian walk is that my mom did not make it to heaven. My mom was very loving and a great lady; loyal to friends and family, giving, full of good works. But she never obeyed the gospel of my King.

Now if I were in charge, I probably would bend the rules a little and let her into heaven. But obeying my Lord Jesus, even when I don't understand why or even agree, is part of my contract as a citizen and ambassador of His kingdom. Jesus states this very clearly in Matthew 10:37: "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me."

As Christians, our confidence is that He will never change His written Word or go back on it-- He cannot lie. Personally, I cling to the promise of Romans 8:28:

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose!”