

The Marriage and Family of the Ambassador

The Importance of Marriage and the Family

And the Message of the Ambassador

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1. Who does the Ambassador represent?

- a. Ambassador: “an official envoy, a diplomatic agent of the highest rank accredited to a foreign government or sovereign as a representative of his own government or sovereign.’ Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary
- b. As believers we represent our sovereign, Jesus Christ, to the world. Paul called himself an ambassador of Christ.
- c. Presburo: “an ambassador or envoy” (2 Corinthians 5:20; Ephesians 6:20)

2. Marriage and family are the barometer of the spiritual heart of the Ambassador (1 Peter 3:7)

- a. Barometer: “an instrument for determining the pressure of the atmosphere, something that serves to register fluctuations”
- b. How the ambassador treats his wife and family has spiritual implications, as to their effectiveness as an ambassador for Christ.
- c. Jesus had much to say about outward spirituality devoid of a real heart change. (Matthew 23:25-28)

3. Marriage and family instructs the Ambassador on unconditional love.

(1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

- a. Nothing will test your ability to love, than a marriage relationship.
- b. Your spouse is your closest neighbor. (Luke 19:19) Do we really love those closest to us, as much as we love ourselves?
- c. Impatience with others is often, at its core, a sign of a lack of love.
- d. Love is also kind. The ambassador of Christ has truth and power that wears a velvet glove.
- e. True love: Greek: Euschemoneo: “isn’t self seeking, behaves in a dignified way” v 5.
- f. Biblical love happily rejoices with the truth and justice, with no thought of the consequences.
- g. True love endures. Greek: Upomeno: “remains under.” v 7. (James 1:12)

4. Marriage and family instructs the Ambassador on service and submission (Ephesians 5:21-25)

- a. First: Everything that follows about submission is out “of reverence for Christ.” v.21
- b. Second: Wives are subject to their husbands, with whom they have a covenantal relationship, not other men.
- c. Third: Ambassadors recognize that submission and authority in marriage, just as in the church, is conferred by God.
- d. Fourth: We are all subject to someone, but have equal standing before God. Wives to husbands, children to parents, employees to employers, etc.
- e. Fifth: Ambassadors recognize that husbands are to lead sacrificially, just as “Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.” v. 25.

5. Marriage and family instructs the Ambassador as to our future inheritance (1 Peter 1:3-5)

- a. Through earthly marriage and family, the Ambassador understands the concept of inheritance.
- b. An inheritance is not earned, but is given due to relationship.
- c. An inheritance is in effect and received at the time of death.
 - i. It was made effectual upon the death and resurrection of Christ.
 - ii. It is received upon our death, “...kept in heaven for you.” v. 4

- d. The Ambassador endures and serves his king, knowing his reward and his affections are in heaven.

6. Marriage and family instructs the Ambassador on how to be humble (Philippians 2:4-8)

- a. Part and parcel of the love of a spouse or parent is sacrificial living for the good of others.
- b. Sacrificial love is not prideful, "...love does not envy or boast." (1 Cor. 13:4b.
- c. As an Ambassador our model is Christ who "but made himself nothing..." (Phil. 2:7a) Greek: kenosis: "emptied himself, divested himself of his privileges."
- d. Kenosis: Christ did not give up any of his attributes, but rather by taking the form of a servant, living as a man, he "...became obedient unto death, even death on a cross." v. 7
- e. "The emptying includes change of role and status, not essential attributes or nature." Wayne Grudem
- f. As Ambassadors we voluntarily divest ourselves of our privileges, not our personalities. We are humble servants of the king.

7. Marriage and family instructs the Ambassador on how to comfort others (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

- a. One of the roles of a spouse or parent is the ability to comfort others.
- b. We learn compassion from close intimate relationships.
- c. Paul writes the Corinthians, that the benefit of trials is twofold:
 - i. To experience the comfort and compassion that comes only from God through his Word and the Holy Spirit.
 - ii. To share with others the comfort we have received through our experience and His Word.

8. Marriage and family of the Ambassador is a picture of Christ and his care for and identity with his church (Ephesians 5:26-33)

- a. In Ephesians 5, it is the husband who is commanded to love, not the wife. It is because "we love, because Christ first loved us." (1 John 4:19)
- b. The Ambassador is to present his wife without spot or wrinkle, just like Christ presents his church. v 27.
- c. The wife of the Ambassador is to be nourished and cherished, just like Christ nourished and cherished the church.

Our effectiveness as Ambassadors is only as good as our effectiveness as spouses, parents, and children.