

AMBASSADORS & PRIESTS

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To be reconciled means to be restored to a loving, trusting relationship with God that has been broken by our sin, corruption and dysfunction.

Hebrews 7:25 - Therefore He is also able to save forever those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Our King and Priest intercedes for us continually because His priesthood never ends. Jesus is praying for you right now that you would abide in His love and find courage by taking Him at His word.

God has called us into His royal priesthood and sends us out into the world as ambassadors for the purpose of reconciling people back to Himself.

Life Application:

- What sins do you need to confess?
- Who are you interceding for right now?
- Where has God placed you to be His ambassador?

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NASB) 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.

As spiritual ambassadors living in foreign territory, we represent the interests of the kingdom of God and have been given the authority of King Jesus to execute His will on earth. And His will is simply this: that all things that are out of alignment with His will would be brought into alignment through the gospel.

1 John 1:9 (NKJV) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The word confess means "to agree with" It simply means to say the same thing about sin that God does.

The great exchange - (**2 Corinthians 5:21, Ephesians 1:5, Isaiah 53:5**)

For sin, He gave us His righteousness
For our rejection of Him, He gave us the Father's acceptance
For our torment, He gave us His peace
For our sickness He gave us health
For our curse He gave us blessing

That is the message of the kingdom we bring as ambassadors.

We are called Kingdom Culture for a reason. We believe that our purpose as a church is to be a family of ambassadors - to bring the rule and reign of Jesus Christ wherever we are.

To proclaim **the words** of the kingdom of God
To do **the works** of the kingdom of God
To demonstrate **the walk** of the kingdom of God.

1 Peter 1:1-2 - Apostle means "one who is sent"

The Hebrew word is shaliach. Shaliach means an authorized agent who carries the sender's authority and message.

That word "strangers" can also be translated "pilgrim"

A pilgrim is someone who lives as a temporary resident in a foreign land. We are all pilgrims passing through a hostile and sometimes treacherous world on our way to our home in heaven.

Peter refers to all believers as the **chosen ones** - the elect.

The doctrine of election is a mystery.

Election does not mean that God chooses some and rejects others like some tyrant, nor does it cancel out human responsibility or free will.

Exodus 19:6 - In the Old Covenant a priest's core function is to represent the people to their God, and represent God to His people. Israel was called to do this as a nation but failed.

The pairing of Kingdom and Priests was prophetic. The Kingdom carries the weight of God's authority on earth, and the Priesthood carries the responsibility of Holiness and access to God.

1 Peter 2:9-10 - Through Jesus, everything the old testament believers were promised was fulfilled.

2 Corinthians 5:20 - 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.

God is making His appeal to the unreconciled through us.

The church is a royal priesthood because it is united with the royal priest Jesus Christ. Our royal priesthood is not only a priesthood that serves the king, but is also a priesthood which exercises His rule on earth.