

Influencing Culture - Week Four
Cultural Influence Means Being an Ambassador

How to Be an Ambassador for Christ – 2 Corinthians 5:11 – 6:2

Introduction: This is the “so what” week. So we create new cultures. So we build relationships with secular people and add value to their lives. Is that it? Have we simply become good humanitarians? Our God-given objective is to use our new found common ground to be an ambassador of Christ. This morning I want to show you how to be a faithful – and an articulate – spokesperson for God. We will start at the end of the passage and move to the beginning.

1. ***THINK DIFFERENTLY ABOUT YOUR IDENTITY: As you influence culture, you are an ambassador for Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:18-21***
 - A. What precisely is an ambassador? 5:20a
 - B. What legal right do we have to serve as ambassadors? 5:18-19, 21
 - C. Do you see yourself as an ambassador? You don't have to try to be one; you are one!

2. ***THINK DIFFERENTLY ABOUT OTHERS' IDENTITIES: As you influence culture, you refuse to evaluate people according to the flesh. 2 Corinthians 5:15-17***
 - A. Negatively – In his pre-Christian days, Paul evaluated everyone according to the flesh. 5:16
 - B. Positively – Paul began to see people solely on the basis of who they are in Christ. 5:17, 15
 - C. Challenge – Deal with your tendencies toward prejudice. They will harm your ambassadorship.

3. ***PERSUADE PEOPLE FOR THE RIGHT REASONS: We are motivated to serve out of love and fear. 2 Corinthians 5:11-14***
 - A. Love and fear seem like polar opposites (1 John 4:18).
 - B. Consequence #1: Radical service. 5:13
 - C. Consequence #2: Radical authenticity.
 - D. Consequence #3: Wise words. 5:11-12

4. ***BOTTOM LINE: Being an ambassador means that we embrace a longing to see people come to Christ, while at the same time respecting their culture.***