

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2

Repent and Realize God's Love

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

What if a limousine with the seal of the President pulled up to where you live, and a nicely dressed man in uniform got out of the car with a message from the President just for you? Would you be excited about hearing the message? Wouldn't it be awesome to be a messenger for the President, or a king or queen? The President would make a decision and send you to go tell others. You would deliver their words in person! People would listen to you like you were a king or queen or the President. That's what we call being an ambassador.

Now, let me tell you something very cool. God considers you ambassadors of Jesus Christ. You represent him and deliver messages for him from his Word. God made you his child through baptism, you have all the blessings of forgiveness of your sins, heaven for your eternal home, and good work to do here and now. As Christ's ambassadors, you have an important message share with others. Here it is: "Be reconciled to God!" Sometimes it is difficult news to deliver when we or others are caught in a sin, or when we've broken God's commands and need to tell God, "I'm sorry." But here's the good news: Jesus took our place on the cross and suffered for our sin. God gives us Jesus' perfect life and accepts us because of him. We have peace with God. This is the message we get to share with people after we show them their sin: God loves you! God says you are forgiven for your sins in Christ Jesus! This isn't bad news. This is the best news! God sends you to share it with the people in your life.

You may not get to pull up in a limousine or wear a fancy suit or dress, but the message you carry is from our God and Savior. You are his ambassador so all of us repent and realize God's love.

The questions below are to help families discuss this devotion. The questions are divided by age group as suggestions, but anyone could reflect on any of the questions as they desire.

Questions for the Younger Children

- What is an important message your mom or dad wants you always to remember?
- What good news do you know about Jesus that is worth sharing?

Questions for Elementary Age Children

- *Repent* means to turn away from sin and turn to Jesus. Give two ways our parents help turn you away from sin to Jesus.
- How does an ambassador for the President act? Describe how you want to act as an ambassador for Jesus.

Questions for Middle School and Above

- As a group, discuss what makes it difficult to be an ambassador for God.
- Evaluate: While it would be hard to hear, I would want my friend to correct me if I am caught in a sin.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Jesus, help me to be a good ambassador not only to others around me, but to myself too. Help me to be sorry of my sins and realize your love and forgiveness for me. Help me to share it with others too. Amen.