

**BOOK OF 2 CORINTHIANS**  
**AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST—PART 2**  
**2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21**

In order to be a proper Ambassador For Christ:

*WE MUST PERSONALLY KNOW CHRIST!*

**II. WE MUST KNOW THE HEART OF GOD!**

Not only do we need to personally know Christ, but we also need to know the heart of God as well!

*Verse 18* states it for us, "*And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.*"

There it is! We've heard it said before that missions is the heartbeat of God. What is missions if it is not God working through His people reconciling a lost world to Himself?

God's heart is beating for us, and once we know Him, His heart beats for the world through us! God has reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ in salvation, and He has given to us His ministry of reconciliation! That is, He has commanded us to go and share Christ with others in an effort to bring them to Christ!

He has called us to get personally involved in being His ambassadors —"*...and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.*"

Ok, we know that intellectually don't we? We all know God longs for lost people to be reconciled to Him! We know our part in that!

So, let me ask then, do we really care? Do we? How do we show it? By looking at lost people and talking about how pathetic they are? By pointing out how sorry they are or how they act like lost people?

That's our tendency! The easiest thing for us to do is to criticize! It's easy to point out how everyone around us is so bad!

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What's not easy is to get with the program and share Christ with them. So long as we are distant from the heart of God we'll not share our faith!

If we're going to be a great ambassador for Christ, if we're going to be the best ambassador that we can be for the Lord, then our heart must beat with His!

But that isn't natural for us! Our heart doesn't naturally want to beat with God's. It resists that level of spiritual intimacy because even though we are saved we still battle this sinful flesh of ours!

We must long for and maintain a high level of spiritual intimacy with Christ! That comes through personal and corporate worship, through much prayer and the study of His Word until we come to a place when we begin to see what He sees, to feel what He feels, to sorrow over what sorrows Him, to love like He loves!

Could you share your faith with a person who is of a different ethnic background than you? Could you share your faith with a Muslim? Could you share your faith with a Mexican that you feel has come and taken jobs away from folks in our country?

Let me answer that for you—Not if you don't know the heart of God! If your heart beats with the same passion for souls that Christ's did, then sharing your faith won't be about color or sex or race or money or whether you're tired or hungry or hot or cold!

Sharing your faith will only be as natural as you are willing to draw close to the heart of God!

*James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*

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*Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

Let me tell you about the heart of God.

- The heart of God beat for the first man and woman when they turned their back on Him and He went looking for them!
- The heart of God beat for the human race when He chose not to destroy it all in the flood and start over!
- The heart of God beat for Sodom and Gomorrah when Abraham pleaded with Him for just 10 righteous souls!
- The heart of God beat for the Children of Israel who had been in bondage in Egypt for 400 years!
- The heart of God beat for a prostitute named Rahab when He saved her and her family in the destruction at Jericho!
- The heart of God beat for a city named Ninevah when He called a lone prophet named Jonah to go and preach repentance and faith to them!
- The heart of God beat for the Samaritan woman at the well!
- The heart of God beat for the woman caught in adultery!
- The heart of God beat for a rich Pharisee named Nicodemus!
- The heart of God beat for a dying thief hanging on a cross!
- The heart of God beat for a murderer and persecutor of Christians named Saul of Tarsus!
- The heart of God beats for the lost world! (John 3:16)

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That's the heart of God! That same heart is still beating today for lost souls, but God is counting on us to be in tune with Him so that we bear the same burden for their salvation that He has.

Until we bear that burden we'll not be the kind of ambassador that God is looking for. The King we represent has sent us out bearing His message, but if we lack His passion we'll not get the job done!

Does our heart break like it should over the spiritual condition of lost people? Oh, we all have good intentions! We want to be His ambassadors in our minds! We know that is what He wants for us but we fall short because we don't know the heart of God!

How can we know and have a heart for God?

- We need to get in the Word!
- We need to be growing in the Word!
- We need to be spending time in prayer!
- We need to be spending time with the "publicans and the sinners" of our day!
- We need to look for opportunities
- We need to think about what will happen if we don't tell them

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**Conclusion**

God is calling on each of us who are saved to become personally involved with Him in reaching lost souls with the Gospel.

God wants us to willingly accept our calling as His ambassador in this world!

Its time that we quit making excuses and just start doing what we've been called to do! We all need to get busy for Christ as His Ambassadors?

Understand this isn't about us! It's about God reconciling a lost world through His Son Jesus Christ and giving us the ministry of reconciliation!

Have you been reconciled to Him in salvation? If not, today you can be!

If you are, do you know the heart of God? Does your heart beat for people the way God's does? He knows whether it does or not! If not, then we need to confess our apathy to God today and forsake it!

Repent of that sin of having an uncaring spirit, and accept what God has called us to be in Christ!