

Seeking the Way of Grace, Parenting as Christ's Ambassadors

September 14, 2017

Ambassador: an authorized messenger or representative; a diplomatic official of the highest rank sent by a government to represent it (or its sovereign) on a temporary mission

II Corinthians 5: 16-21 (italics mine)

¹⁶So from now on *we regard no one from a worldly point of view.* Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰*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.* ²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

From Paul Tripp's *Parenting: The 14 Gospel Principles that Can Radically Change Your Family*

	Owner	Ambassador
Identity	Parents seek identity, meaning, and purpose from their children.	Parents know their identity comes from the One whom they represent: Jesus.
Work	Parents believe it's their job to transform their child into "something" (good person, superstar, etc.).	Parents understand that they have no power to change their children and, without God's wisdom, wouldn't even know what is best for their children.
Success	Parents gauge their success by their children's achievements.	Parents recognize that successful parenting is about being a usable and faithful tool in the hands of the One who alone is able to produce good things in your children.
Reputation	Parents are preoccupied with how their children make them look.	Parents understand that parenting sinners will expose the messiness of family life and accept the complexity of the job God has called them to do.

- 1) Can you think of a recent parenting moment when God enabled you to glimpse the deeper significance of your seemingly ordinary, even mundane situation?
- 2) For what current parenting challenge are you most tempted to seek a formulaic solution or "street-level directions"?
- 3) In what ways do you recognize a tendency toward "ownership" in your parenting?
- 4) As you feel comfortable, feel free to share any matters for prayer with the women sitting at your table.