

Who Me?
2 Corinthians 5:12-21
February 18, 2018

Key words/ phrases in our passage today:

- Compels (vs 14)
- Ministry of reconciliation (vs 18)
- Ambassadors for Christ (vs 20)

In essence, we are and should be a “witness” of God’s grace and love. What are you witnesses to? What do your actions show? Your attitude? Your words?

The word “witness” is a verb, an action, it’s something we do.

Definition of WITNESS:

1. Attestation of a fact or event : TESTIMONY.
2. One that gives evidence; *specifically*: one who testifies in a cause or before a judicial tribunal.
3. One asked to be present at a transaction so as to be able to testify to its having taken place .
4. One who has personal knowledge of something. ¹

In Scripture, it was used in three ways:

- Legal sense (Matthew 18:6, Mark 14:63 and Acts 6:13 among others).
- Historical sense (Acts 10:41, 1 Timothy 6:12 and Revelation 11:3) among others.
- Ethical sense (Acts 22:20, Revelation 2:13 and Revelation 17:6). Often in this sense, it’s used that after their “witness” they proved the strength and genuineness of their faith by being put to death.² In other words, they were witness of Christ even to the point of death.

Often when we hear the word “witness”, we may think of:

- Missionaries
- Pastors
- Gift of Evangelism, and therefore dismiss that it includes us.

So this morning we answer the who, what, when, where, why and how of being a witness!

Who: All believers (ALL).

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. **Acts 1:8**

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. **2 Corinthians 5:20**

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. **Matthew 28:19-20**

What: Tell of the goodness, truth and love of God.

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As

¹ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/witness>

² www.bible.org

it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!" **Romans 10:14-15**

With our life and with our words we are witnesses every day. To what are we a witness of (attitude, words, and actions).

When: At all times.

There is not clock out time for the life of a Believer! Acts 1:8 doesn't tell us to be a witness of Jesus on certain days, times or when it's convenient.

We have great examples in that of Paul, Stephen and Job to name a few.

Where: At all places.

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. **Acts 1:8**

4'C's – Church, Community, Country and Continents!

Until the whole world knows!

Why:

- Judgment (rewards – tonight) Romans 2:6-11, 1 Corinthians 9:4-27
- Fear of the Lord (honor and respect) Psalm 128:1 and Psalm 112:1
- Christ's love compels us – both a command and expected (result of our salvation)

For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;²⁰ and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law;²¹ to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law;²² to the weak I became as^{dt} weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.²³ Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you. **1 Corinthians 9:19-23**

Under what means (whatever necessary) – all things to all people so that I might win some (Church is for the Believers, mainly, though unbelievers are in the church)

Be intentional – with this we often negate the subtle touch and prodding's of the Holy Spirit and say something like, "I really should do that sometime," or "I need to make that happen but don't have the time" or "maybe someday."

How:

- **Relationally**
- **Words**
- **Lifestyle**
- Crowd you keep

We have something everyone needs, Jesus; how are we sharing that by example and by words?

Prayer Focus:

- I will ask, "What does my life as a whole convey to others?" "What or who am I a witness of?"
- If I were put on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict me?
- I would ask God to work on my heart and ask Him to be a witness to others through me.