

Hey, are you in full-time ministry? Well, if you're a serious Christian, of course you are! God has appointed every one of us as an ambassador for Him, wherever He directs our steps!

That means whether you're a nurse, an engineer, a retail greeter, an executive, a stay-at-home parent, or a youth pastor—well, then you're in full-time ministry. Whether you're paid by a nonprofit or a business or simply volunteering your time, you're in full-time ministry!

Here's where it starts: when someone believes in Christ, then that person is transferred to the Kingdom of God. You see, the Kingdom was fulfilled at Jesus' death and resurrection...and the Kingdom will be fully consummated in the end times as documented in the Revelation to John.

But right now—right now!—we as believers have been transferred in a special way—that's right, we've been transferred—to the Kingdom of God's beloved Son, Jesus. That's what Paul wrote to the Colossians, chapter 1, verse 13.

So we Christians have a dual citizenship: first, yeah, yeah, each person's citizenship is in the country where born or perhaps naturalized. Then, when a person believes in Christ, that person is transferred to the Kingdom of God...that's supernaturalized citizenship! Now that's why each believer is referred to in the Bible as an ambassador for Christ and, of course, His Kingdom...you know, just like Argentina's ambassador represents Argentina. Isn't that great?

For Christians, Jesus is the King and we are appointed to represent Christ and His Kingdom.

The gospel is—at the very core—about God's Kingdom. In fact, Mark pretty much starts out his gospel documenting Jesus' ministry in Galilee proclaiming...and I quote: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." That's found in Mark, Chapter 1, verses 14 and 15. Yes, that is the gospel of God, that is the gospel of grace, that is the good news of salvation—and those are all encompassed by the gospel of the Kingdom of God.

So, just how do Christians proceed in proclaiming the gospel? In the Great Commission—that's the well-known name for the very practical mission statement for the Kingdom of God and its thriving growth—Jesus directed His followers to go forth and make disciples (you know, of course, that that's in Matthew chapter 28).

Now, is that command just for pastors and missionaries and Christian nonprofit leaders and employees that receive paychecks from ostentatiously Christian organizations? Are you kidding? Of course not! That would mean that Jesus' command was limited to a small fraction of believing saints who happen to be paid by overtly Christian organizations.

Of course that whole idea is ridiculous! Come now. Is your pastor really going to get to a downtown office building to credibly witness to people he doesn't even know? That is the opportunity of the Christian actually working in that building...or that factory...or that school...or that mall—to build credibility through strong personal work-related competencies and deepening personal relationships.

Here's the really cool thing: clearly the most efficient forward-looking missions success in the coming decades—if Jesus tarries and holds off on His return—is one where individual Christians who are nurses

and clerks and engineers and managers are dispersed in every nation around the world in all the kaleidoscope of all enterprise activities.

Why is that so efficient? Because then Christians bearing fruit for their employers as a result of competence-based employment are actually being paid by those employers—and not being paid by a church or a missions organization—and those Christians can stand ready in every nook and cranny worldwide with a witness and testimony for Jesus.

Now, here's a certain irony. Christians would typically be unwise to run up and down the corridors of their multicultural-perspective workplaces shouting about Jesus. So effective ambassadors for Christ wisely bide their time, performing their work very competently, building relationships, waiting for the Holy Spirit-prompted opportunities to witness for Jesus.

So being an effective workplace ambassador requires great spiritual maturity and sensitivity to God's leading in the execution of the ambassador's role in different realms: tonight, yes, proclaiming Jesus in the church service or at your family's dining experience, but perhaps next month when a cherished coworker who's an unbeliever learns that her spouse has deserted her family.

Can you imagine a better enterprise model than how the Kingdom is designed? Citizens of the Kingdom are dispersed around the world as ambassadors, largely being paid by non-Christian employers, yet being equipped in their local church, each saint poised and ready for a powerful witness of a changed life in Christ.

Now, that's full-time ministry. Every Christian's privilege. Now that's crazy good!

## *A&A: Application & Action*

1. What does being an effective ambassador for Jesus the King really look like?
2. Ephesians 4 directs that the saints—all believers, the full Body of Christ—are to be equipped. Equipped for whom? Equipped for what? Equipped for when? Equipped for where?
3. The so-called “sacred-secular divide” has been discussed *ad nauseum* for a really, really long time. Did God really intend that only a small fraction of Jesus-followers be continuously engaged in working to touch others for Christ? Of course not! What are some factors that seemingly continue to give rise to this debilitating, destructive belief?