## **Represent:**

## Those who have been touched by God's grace are God's representatives to the World

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that 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. 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.

1 peter 2:9-10 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

There are two parts here. First we receive the gift of Christ. Reconciliation. Mercy. Second we become ambassadors, witness for him, agents of His kingdom, representatives, priests, part of a holy nation,

## We are God's representatives

The world will know God through us:

There are hundreds of unseen faith decisions that people have made that display God's Love and God's GREATNESS to the people around them,

## Being God's representative in the world:

1. It Begins with God and it is about God.

It is easy to make it about us.

Must be connected to the vine, the source of love, be in prayer

Apart from Christ I can do nothing

We are sharing what we have been given, so we must take the time to receive

We can enjoy being witnesses, we don't have to know all the answers,

because we represent an amazing God, its not about us,

2. Our first (and greatest) witness is to those right before us.

It is easy to look to the ends of the earth, try to change the whole world

God has given us those who are in our own lives

How can we represent Christ and His love to those around us?

Build relationship: Be a part of their lives, be present, listen,

Serve in practical ways

Be compassionate, forgiving, and generous

Pray for and with them

Share the joy, love, and truth God has given you

As we have opportunity our sphere of influence can continue to expand to those farther away. Micah 6:8

3. We take opportunities but don't force opportunities

It is easy to try to rush or to miss opportunities

Be faithful with the season of life we are in and the opportunities God has given us.

Overcome fear: Be willing to bring Christ into your friendship

Pray; share you story and Christ's story.

The River Flows as we:

Receive God's love and Share God's Love