

Son: There were some boys who all just got the new Air Jordons [coveting] and they were making fun of me because *you* [more blame shifting] got me the Air Jordons from Wal-Mart.

Dad: I'm so sorry son, that is never a fun experience. So how did that make you feel when they were making fun of you?

Son: I don't know. I guess I didn't really care.

Dad: Are you sure, because it seems like we wouldn't be talking about it now if you didn't care. Did it make you sad?

Son: Yeah, and I guess it made me angry too.

Dad: Why, what were you angry about?

Son: It was embarrassing because other kids were around. [fear of man]

Dad: Why does that matter what other people think?

Son: It just does. It makes everything a lot easier when people like you. [idolatry of his friends' opinion or self-idolatry]

Week 1 – December 2, 2012

Introduction to Biblical Counseling

Why Does This Matter?

Defining Biblical Counseling

Webster's Dictionary (1979): "*professional* guidance of the individual using psychological methods."

Biblical counseling is the opportunity to speak into someone's life using God's wisdom, and not your own.

In Colossians 3, Paul writes, 16 "*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom,*" (cf. Joshua 1:8; Ps 119:105).

Next week: Biblical Anthropology

Reading in Tripp's *Instruments*: Ch 1 & 2

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Defining Your Calling as an Ambassador

2 Cor 5:14-6:2:

¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

¹⁶ So 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. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men'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. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹ As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ² For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

What is this message of reconciliation and who has this message of reconciliation been committed to?

What is an ambassador?

A good way to summarize this ambassadorial life is to say, as an ambassador, I represent:

1. The *message* of the King.
2. The *methods* of the King.
3. The *character* of the King.

Relevance for Everyday Life (and not just Crisis)

Example: Your teenager (10-years-of-age) comes home with a sad look on his face and you know something is wrong.

Ideally, a conversation might look like this...

Dad: Hey buddy, what's wrong?

Son: Nothing (*you are not surprised by this response, are you?*)

Dad: Really? Nothing is wrong? Then why did you walk in the door sulking, throw your back pack on the floor and stomp up to your bedroom like you wanted to make sure everyone in the house knew that you are home and you are angry.

Son: I'm just annoyed *at some guys* at school [possibly note the potential early signs of blame-shifting].

Dad: Why, what happened?