



2 Corinthians 5 V 20

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. .



Who do you represent?

So how good an ambassador are you?

What one thing would improve the way you are as a representative?

Food For Thought: Cynthia Stroum: Ambassador

In this passage Paul suggests that our vocation is to reconcilers, to reconcile this world to Christ. He calls us ambassadors. In its most common use; the term usually applies to the ranking government representative stationed in a foreign [capital](#). So we are **appointed** to represent the kingdom of God here in the foreign land of the world: In our case at the consulate in Salisbury. We live in a world that is angry with God, full of bitterness and resentment toward him. We bring his message into this world and like any ambassador our role is to help explain that message, to argue for his interests and to help those we are posted to understand the interests and concerns and ways of life the kingdom we represent. .

These days the term Ambassadors is widely used. We have Student ambassadors, Sports ambassadors, Unicef ambassadors and so on. But what does it take to be a good ambassador? You might be surprised that it you don't actually have to have any qualifications to be a countries ambassador. There are foreign office exams of course but on the whole you get appointed by the president or prime minister based on your experience and particular expertise. You are appointed because you have the support of the president. Most are very good at their job but some can be rubbish. One of the worst in recent years is considered to be Cynthia Stroum.

She served as US ambassador to Luxembourg from December 2009 to January 2011 i.e. just over a year after which she resigned. On paper she should have been a good ambassador, she has a degree in Public relations and is a successful businesswoman with her own film and theatre production company. She had given her time freely as a fund raiser and contributor to many charities and political causes. But perhaps what clinched her appointment by President Obama to the rather cushy diplomatic post of US ambassador to Luxembourg was her contribution of \$500,000 to the Democratic Party. Once in post she spent most of her year in office searching for suitable accommodation while the ambassador's residence was being renovated. She flew her own chef in from Switzerland and spent excessively on wine and other comforts but was most notorious for insisting that a Queen size mattress was flown in for her as the King size bed she was given was too big. In the end she was forced to resign when a state department investigation criticized her massive over spending and poor management and because most of the embassy staff were off sick with stress and in need of emotional counseling.

The countries of Luxembourg and USA are not at war and they are still on good terms but all Cynthia managed was to make her country a laughing stock. Whenever you wear a uniform, represent a team, profess a faith, or generally stand up for something you become an ambassador, People identify you with that cause and they watch you to see do and judge that group by what you do. No pressure then!



'Forgive it Lord that I should boast save in the cross of Christ my God' *When I survey the Wondrous Cross (Isaac Watts)*



"Lord, we thank you for the opportunities to do this work in your name; may our actions be a testimony to God's goodness. Help us to know your presence when the work gets tough deliver us from anything we cannot cope with and help us in our busyness to see others that are struggling. Help us to pray your blessing and peace upon people and places we visit and work in each day, in Jesus' name I pray. Amen."