



# Ambassador or Apologist?

Update from Jacob Burow - August 2011



Greetings in the name of Christ!

Is there a difference between an ambassador and an apologist? II Cor. 5:20 says, *“We are ambassadors therefore on behalf of Christ, as though God were entreating by us...”* The term ambassador emphasizes how we are *representing* the one in authority over us. For us, that is Christ.

The term apologist emphasizes the need to make a comprehensive defense for our position, being prepared to answer all objections.

Does the good apologist need to be a good ambassador? Yes. According to I Pet. 3:15, we are to make our defense with *gentleness* and *reverence*. So, the good ambassador is concerned with representing Christ well, combining concern for *truth* and *love* for the person.

Consider how two of my colleagues interacted with “Nick” in Arizona.

Nick was hanging around the JFA Exhibit, berating volunteers for being pro-life. His body language was pretty aggressive. He was bashing a statistic cited by one of our volunteers, claiming that JFA made it up. Trent Horn, a JFA staff member at the time, noticed the volunteer was flustered, so he stepped in and clarified the origin of the statistic.

Nick badgered Trent with assertions and sarcastic questions. In response, Trent respectfully provided strong arguments for the humanity and value of the unborn. *Truth... in love.*

Nick finally simmered down as he realized that he had encountered someone with more knowledge of the abortion issue than he. Nick ended the conversation with Trent, but he hung around and talked with several other people.

Catherine Wurts, a JFA staff member, saw Nick sitting on a bench a couple of hours later. After they discussed the biology of the unborn for a few minutes, Catherine asked why Nick had been so upset and said she wanted to hear his story.

**Nick shared that his girlfriend was pregnant and scheduled for an abortion the next day.** She was going to school in Pennsylvania, he at the University of Arizona. My heart broke as Catherine told me his story: Nick shared with her how much he wants to be a good dad, loving and providing for his family. Now was just not the right time. He thought an abortion was best because the fetus was not really a person yet—not really his child. Abortion would be best for their family. But now he had seen the pictures. Tears trickled down his cheeks as he spoke. The truth often hurts.

Catherine was able to share with Nick some resources for a pregnancy center near his girlfriend. She gave him her phone number and told him to call her if he needed anything. But most



***We encourage people to stand shoulder to shoulder (instead of toe to toe) in order to graciously look at tough issues like abortion together. This was another man from Arizona with whom I was able to converse.***



The outreach at Arizona State University.

importantly, she listened and cared. *Truth... in love.*

We don't know the end of that story, but we do know that both Trent and Catherine illustrated the marks of a good ambassador in their interactions with Nick. Trent met Nick's need by clarifying facts and statistics. I believe this brought Nick to a place where he could share with Catherine.

Catherine focused on listening to Nick's story. Just as Trent had the wisdom to meet Nick's intellectual challenge, Catherine had the wisdom to build on what Trent had already discussed by focusing on Nick's personal needs.

As we teach our volunteers, wisdom is knowing what to say when and when to say nothing. I like to call this the *labor of listening*. That is what Catherine demonstrated so well that day.

We don't have to choose listening *or* communicating truth. Those are not two ideas to be balanced, such that more of one means less of

the other. They are best done fully together. Truth *in* love. When we teach people the art of combining truth and love, it transforms them from timid Christians to confident ambassadors for Christ.

It is such a blessing to participate in training ambassadors. Thank you for your financial and prayer support! Both of these are crucial to success in our work.

Many Blessings In Christ,

P.S. If you have not been supporting me financially, ***please consider doing so***. I hope to move next month to Kansas. I'm working on finishing my fundraising so that I can focus full-time on training ambassadors.



***Becoming a good ambassador takes training and practice. We've seen many students take the challenge seriously. Here, I mentor students in Arizona.***

**I'm 2/3 there! - RESULTS OF MY SUPPORT RAISING EFFORTS TO DATE**

**As of August 1, I've reached 67% of my goal.**

**86 families have partnered with me for this ministry so far (either through monthly support or special gifts). Praise God!**