

In 1782, Rev. Charles Simeon became the Pastor at Holy Trinity Church, which was on the campus of the historic Cambridge University. The parishioners did not want the 23 year old graduate of Cambridge to be their spiritual leader. So, to oppose him, members of the congregation that were 'seat holders' (meaning they literally owned a certain pew), would lock the door of their pews so that no one could sit there.

Due to the prominent members, seat holders, locking their pews, anyone who attended the Church had to stand, which as you can imagine, caused controversy and commotion from time to time. This went on for a total of 10 years. But, Rev. Simeon stayed. Not because he was loved by the people or community, but because he clung to the call of God. After 10 years, finally, the seat holders gave in or had passed away. Rev. Charles Simeon went on to serve Holy Trinity Church in Cambridge for a total of 54 years.

When asking myself, why did he stick it out? In reading more about Rev. Simeon I've come to learn just how important he felt that every Christian (not just ministers), live their lives as ambassadors for Christ Jesus.

In a letter to fellow young minister, John Venn, on the occasion of his ordination, Rev. Simeon penned these words:

'My dearest friend, I most sincerely congratulate you not on a permission to receive 40 or 50 pounds a year, nor on the title of Reverend, but on your accession to the most valuable, most honorable, most important, and most glorious office in the world--to that of an ambassador of the Lord Jesus Christ.'

On that day, the average minister of a large parish would earn around \$27,700 in today's money. Of course, he wasn't concerned about that. But about that fact that he was an ambassador for the Lord Jesus Christ. If you and I claim Christ, we too are ambassadors.

Rev. Simeon would go on to see the likes of Charles Darwin and Julius Wellhausen and others, attempt to violate the Bible and would attempt to ruin its credibility. But with the work and ministry of Rev. Simeon, Rev. John Henry Newman, Rev. Canon H. Liddon, Rev. F.W. Robertson and Rev. Charles Haddon Spurgeon, the pulpit in England maintained its prestige and the Word of God continued to be proclaimed.

It's time that you and I take our role as ambassadors for Christ seriously. Like Rev. Simeon, I have no dreams or aspirations of obtaining 'another' pulpit. I just have dreams and aspirations of being faithful to the work and place that God has called me. But, we must not be afraid to fight our current culture when they attempt to discredit what we believe and hold as inerrant, infallible, and inspired by God Himself. The Bible. No matter the size of your congregation or

pulpit, we must be faithful to the Word, each week. That's one of the best ways to fight the current culture. Stick to the Bible. Don't bend, and don't break. Keep going.

What about you? As I wrap up this short devotional I've written today, I want to ask you, how are you taking EVERY opportunity to be an ambassador for Christ where He's placed you? How are you listening to the Lord?

I'm reminded of what Jesus said in Luke 8:18, 'Take care then how you hear,'

Don't just hear Jesus, heed what He says, apply it to your life. Be an ambassador for Christ today.

-Rev. R. Brady Henderson

