



Representing Christ 1st Peter 1:16

In the book Dragonquest by Donita Paul there is a character named Dar who call himself an ambassador for his kind, the doneel

- Doneels are a people that are described as furry with bulging eyes, thin black lips, and ears at the top and front of their skulls. A flap of skin covers a Doneel's ear and twitches, responding to the Doneel's mood. Doneels are usually small in stature, rarely over three-feet tall. Doneel's also usually dress in colorful and stylish clothing.

In the book Dragonquest by Donita Paul there is a character named Dar who call himself an ambassador for his kind, the doneel

- He was introduced by Wizard Fenworth as High Lee General Dar to another wizard
- His friend Kale, a young human dragon-keeper, asked Dar if that was true

In the book Dragonquest by Donita Paul there is a character named Dar who call himself an ambassador for his kind, the doneel

- Dar said, “No he is thinking about my father.”
- Kale, “Are you really an ambassador like you claim?”
- Dar, “We are all ambassadors Kale. We represent something to someone every day of our lives.”

Our Heavenly Father has given His children a wonderful responsibility

- To accurately represent Him to the lost, lonely, hurting, fearful, weak, rejected....
- To bring the wounded and scarred to Jesus for the opportunity of wholeness

This is what Jesus did as He walked this earth

- Yes, He brought healing and wisdom, but mostly He brought acceptance, understanding, and wholeness
- He taught us a different way of looking at life, ourselves, others but mostly, His Heavenly Father
- He taught us a different way to live a true life of blessing

We live in a world of the walking wounded and yes this includes Christians as well

- We have learned to survive, mostly, but the costs are high
- We live not in the peace, love, and wholeness salvation promises from being in a right relationship with our Heavenly Father
- We settle for something less that God desires
- Jesus came not just to deliver us from our sin debt, but to deliver us from our scars as well

This is what the book of Malachi is trying to show us

- It's not about a God who got His feelings hurt because He didn't feel honored and respect by those He had greatly blessed
- It's not about beating His people into submission, so they do what He wants
- It is about God leading His people to a point of wholeness which is possible only when we honor and respect Him, allowing Him to lead us there

This is what the book of Malachi is trying to show us

- God asked His people, “Do you honor and respect Me to the point of yielding to My ways?”
- We talk a lot about trusting God and His Word, but that is only as deep as the honor and respect we have for Him
- We plead for Him to do great things in our lives or for those we care for while at the same time holding our lives tightly in our own hands and not allowing God in

This is what the book of Malachi is trying to show us

- We settle for salvation when our loving Heavenly Father longs to lead us all the way to wholeness
- So as doneel Dar said, “We represent something to someone every day of our lives.”

For this reason, Christian, God commands us to be *(live, think, desire)* holy

- **1st Peter 1:16 NLT**, “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must be holy because I am holy.’”
- **Leviticus 19:2 NLT**, “Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.’”
- Holy – set apart for a purpose
- God doesn’t say, “Be perfect for I am perfect”

For this reason, Christian, God commands us to be *(live, think, desire)* holy

- This must be possible, or it would not have been commanded of us
- Not in/of ourselves but through the honor and respect for our Heavenly Father, that allows us to yield our lives to Him

For this reason, Christian, God commands us to be (*live, think, desire*) holy

- Notice it does not say, “Do holy things.”
 - In other words, it does not say, “Out of your wisdom, strength, and desire do holy things for Me, consistently.”
 - That makes it up to us to decide what is holy and then to do those things which we cannot do consistently

For this reason, Christian, God commands us to be *(live, think, desire)* holy

- Scripture says to “Be or become holy”
- Let holiness be your character (*who you are, how you see yourself*) and out of that character you will consistently do holy things
- See yourself set apart or different from the way the world operates

For this reason, Christian, God commands us to be *(live, think, desire)* holy

- The pattern we apply to our lives are the commands and examples God has left us in His Word
- We see ourselves in the world, but separated from the world system and in covenant with every other born-again child of God

For this reason, Christian, God commands us to be *(live, think, desire)* holy

- We today use the nation of Israel as our example of what it means to be holy or separated for God alone
- **Deuteronomy 7:6 NLT**, “For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.”

For this reason, Christian, God commands us to be *(live, think, desire)* holy

- God choose to reveal Himself to Israel
- To show them who He is and how mankind was created to live in harmony with Him
- To bless their lives with His presence and abundance
- To give them hope and a future
- To be His ambassadors to the nations around them

For this reason, Christian, God commands us to be *(live, think, desire)* holy

- Israel lost the honor, respect, and awe toward God by not spiritually separating themselves but adopting the World's ways
- They let their relationship with God go stale and stagnant and then blamed Him for it

They did not see themselves through the eyes of God nor others

- **Romans 12:10 NLT**, “Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.”
- What would you assume is missing in this verse?
 - If they are worthy based upon my definition of worthiness
 - If they have not scarred me or taken advantaged of me

They did not see themselves through the eyes of God nor others

- **Romans 12:10 NLT**, “Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.”
- What is missing in this verse?
 - If they will start by changing, then I will pick that love stuff up and run with it, but not until then

They did not see themselves through the eyes of God nor others

- **Matthew 5:43-46 NLT**, “43 You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?”

They did not see themselves through the eyes of God nor others

- **1st Peter 2:17 NLT**, “Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king.”
- **Ephesians 6:12 NLT**, “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

They did not see themselves through the eyes of God nor others

- **Ephesians 6:12 NLT**, “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood....”
 - That person yelling at you is not your enemy
 - That person who scarred you is not your enemy
 - Even the government is not your enemy
 - Let this knowledge govern your next response

They did not see themselves through the eyes of God nor others

- **Malachi 2:10 NLT**, “Are we not all children of the same Father? Are we not all created by the same God? Then why do we betray each other, violating the covenant of our ancestors?”
 - Israel was failing to love others as commanded
 - Israel hated all Gentile people, everyone other than Jews thus all other nations hated their God

Our great privilege as children of God

- **2nd Corinthians 5:20 NLT**, “So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, ‘Come back to God!’”
- An ambassador is one who is sent to represent one country or government to another
- They are in the country, but they don’t belong there
- While in the other country, the ambassador presents and demonstrates all the best that their home country or government has to offer

Our great privilege as children of God

- When you give your life to God, you become a member of the Kingdom of Heaven
- **Colossians 1:13 NLT**, “For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son.”

Our great privilege as children of God

- So, for the rest of your time here on earth, you're not just here for your own plans or interests, but you're representing Heaven to those around you
 - As a matter of fact, you're the only real sample of Heaven most people will ever see
 - What they'll know about God's working in peoples' lives, they'll get from watching **YOUR** life

Our great privilege as children of God

- **Colossians 3:15 NLT**, “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts” and let your Heavenly Father lead you all the way to wholeness
- I think doneel Dar was correct, “We are all ambassadors. We represent something to someone every day of our lives.”
- May that something be the marvelous glories of Jesus Christ



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