

What Is A Spiritual Green Card?

By Brooks A. Harris

One of Wikipedia's definitions for a "**Green Card**" is: the informal name for an ID card attesting to *the permanent resident status of an alien* in the United States, and an "**Alien**" as: *a non-citizen resident* of a country. Wikipedia also defines "**Visa**" as: *a document* issued by a country's government allowing the holder to enter or to leave that country. An ambassador would be an alien, and according to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, an "**Ambassador**" is an authorized representative or messenger, OR the resident representative of his or her own government or sovereign, OR an appointed representative for a special or often temporary diplomatic assignment.

The MacArthur Study Bible explains "**Ambassador for Christ**" as: a messenger representing the King of heaven with the gospel, who pleads with the people of the world to be reconciled to God, who is their rightful King (see 2 Corinthians 5:20). The "gospel" is the message of Jesus Christ and His substitutionary death on the cross for those who repent and accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

According to the Holy Bible, as for Christians, this world is not our home. God is our heavenly Father and His kingdom is our home. Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior and our Mediator, our contact person, who hears our prayers and relates them to our heavenly Father. As Christians, we are supposed to live in this world as ambassadors, representatives of our heavenly home and God's government. So even though we live in a land so different than our homeland, we are to exhibit the same moral and ethical behavior as Jesus taught us. We are not supposed to be conformed to the ways of this world if they go against the ways of God.

Therefore a "**Spiritual Green Card**" would be a Visa for Christians, ambassadors for Christ, giving them permission to live in this world until they go home (in this case – until they physically die or when Jesus returns for them). It would be a document which attests that they are not of this world. It could be used to explain why the person lives differently than the worldly people around them – why their morals and ethics do not match popular culture. It would be understood that their stay is only temporary (their spiritual life is eternal, but physical life on this earth is only temporary); they will have to go home eventually.

As an Ambassador for Christ, we have a special message to deliver to this world in the little time we have left. Christians are to go throughout this world and make disciples of all nations. We are to use our God-given gifts to spread the gospel. Such gifts would be our talents, our time and our treasures. Also, since our actions speak louder than words, we must practice what we preach if we expect people to take us seriously.

Verses to read:

2 Corinthians 5:17-20 – Ambassadors for Christ implore You to be Reconciled to God

1 John 2:15-17 – Do Not Love the World or the Things in the World

Romans 12:1-2 – Be Transformed, Not Conformed to this World

1 John 4:4-6 – He Who is in You is Greater than he who is in the World

James 4:4 – Friend of the World = Enemy of God

1 Timothy 2:1-6 – Jesus Christ, the Mediator between God and Men

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 – Christians will meet up with the Lord and be with Him always