

Series: We Are the Church

Sermon: *Sent to Serve*

Scripture: 2 Cor 5:17-21

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (ESV)

[17] Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. [18] All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; [19] that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. [20] Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. [21] For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

1. How do you feel about being both gathered AND sent out as a church member? Which do you think of more often? How can you get a better balance between the two?
2. How often do you think of yourself as a representative of Jesus in your ordinary life? What can you do to remind yourself of that reality?
3. Paul says we are "entrusted with the message of reconciliation"-- seeking to help people become reconciled to God. When Jesus sent out his followers, he charged them to "proclaim God's kingdom and to heal" and to go and make disciples of all kinds of people. How do you think that relates to the message of reconciliation entrusted to us in our passage today?
4. What can you do this week to live out God's mission in your everyday life?

Prayer

Here is a classic prayer on mission used frequently by many Christians.
Make it your own this week:

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth,
and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far
off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere
may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your
fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming
of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.