

# **Series: *Connecting People to Ministry***

**Sermon Title: Unleashing the  
Church: Out of the Fortress and  
into Ministry**

**2 Corinthians 5:17-20**

**March 27, 2011**

# The Holy Huddle

- ...How did the church go from what we see in Acts 2, turning the world upside down, to a church that people are leaving in droves because of the perception that it is boring and irrelevant?

# God wants the church...

- ...unleashed because His original plan in creation is *still valid*.  
(5:17)

# **God's Original Plan**

- **(Gen. 1:26-27)**

# **God's Plan Explained**

- Man created in His image**
- Assigned the job of vice-regent**
- Expected to rule over all of God's creation**

# **The Fallout of the Fall**

- **(Gen. 3:20-24)**

# The Fallout

- **Man fails God's test of obedience**
- **Judged for his disobedience**
- **Given a promise of redemption**

# New Creation



2 Corinthians 5:17

# **The New Creation**

- **(Romans 8:1, 28-29)**

# God's Plan Explained

- No more condemnation
- Everything will come together for our good and His glory
- We will over time be conformed to the image of His Son.

# God wants the church...

- ...unleashed because we have been given the *ministry of reconciliation*. (5:18-19)

# **The Need...**

- We were enemies of God along with the rest of the world (Romans 5:10; Col. 1:21)**

# **God wants the church...**

- ...unleashed because we are ambassadors for Christ. (5:20)**

# Ambassadors

- **Credentials**
- **Specific Mission**
- **Diplomatic Immunity**
- **Authority to speak and act**