

Message Title: **'The Ministry of Us'**  
Scripture Source: **Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 2:14, 3:3**  
Date: Sunday, September 10, 2017  
Teacher: John Garner

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### **The Main Thing...**

...is making disciples together, in Jesus' name. Matthew 28:18-20. Jesus is persistently passionate about people like you and me experiencing a personal relationship with him and helping others experience the same. Jesus wants to see people set free from the power and guilt of sin and enabled to become the people God has in mind for them to be...people who live with purpose, creativity, power, and faith, becoming more and more like Jesus in attitude, character, and conduct.

### **The Ministry of Us: 2 Corinthians 3:3**

The 'what' of our 'missio dei' is disarmingly simple...make disciples of Jesus...but how do we do this? We do this best when we do this together...when we are engaged in 'the ministry of us.'

*"In the Messiah, in Christ, God leads us from place to place in one perpetual victory parade.*

*Through us, he brings knowledge of Christ."* 2 Corinthians 2:14

Friends, God's plan is that we make disciples of Jesus in wonderfully creative and collaborative ways. When Jesus began his public ministry his mantra was 'the ministry of us.' He assembled an eclectic team of ministry servants...to introduce people to Jesus, and together they taught, healed and served all sorts of people along the way. Luke 5:10-11, 9:1-6.

The apostle Paul followed in Jesus' footsteps and created teams of people to serve together, he lived out the model of 'the ministry of us.' 2 Corinthians 5:16-20 This mission of making disciples of Jesus was never meant to be an individual endeavour; it was meant to express doing life and ministry together, with a wonderful mix of personalities, natural abilities, spiritual gifts and personal resources, this resource pool to be shared wisely and widely in living out the mission of Jesus. It is be involved in purposeful collaboration with wise leadership providing both clarity of direction and opportunity for engagement. These traits marked 'the ministry of us' lived out by Jesus and Paul. It's not about 'doing our own thing'; it's about doing 'the main thing...God's thing of 'making disciples of Jesus.'

### **Three Stories: The Ministry of Us**

This year's VBS at RBC – a beautiful expression of 'the ministry of us', different abilities and gifts brought into play...and introducing young lives and their families to the love of Jesus happened, day after day...and beyond. Clarity of leadership was manifested and many people willingly engaged in...say it with me! 'the ministry of us.' Consequences, a deep sense of purpose and satisfaction.

Community lunches at St. Andrews church – a tangible ministry of Redeemer Compassion Ministries...yet again, a heart warming and need meeting expression of 'the ministry of us.'

Sunday mornings at Redeemer, many different skills and spiritual gifts brought into play, working together to introduce people to the forgiving and reconciling love of Christ and to help followers of Jesus mature in lives of faith, hope and love. God uses Sunday mornings in meaningful and oft times profound ways to express his grace and truth to people...to people like you and me.

Sunday mornings...'the ministry of us'. Sometimes my heart wells up with emotion and much gratitude when I experience what God can do through people like you and me in each other's lives.

Please note...not one of these stories and countless others that could be told were the result of any one person...it's not 'the ministry of me'; it is 'the ministry of us!' And we need to take time to thank God and enjoy the evidences of God does in and through us.

### **Why Do We Engage?**

...in 'the ministry of us': 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

Love...received and experienced...love shared because of what a person can actually experience when faith in Jesus is chosen and following Jesus is acted upon...new realities come into being!  
New hope, new beginnings, new attitudes and behaviours.

### **New 'Ministry of Us' Opportunities**

ANIB 2017 and the Christmas Parade in Niagara Falls...significant settings to introduce people to RBC and the message of Jesus and his offer of salvation...a fantastic 'ministry of us' for all sorts of people.

Leadership Development 2017-2018 - see insert, cultivating godly character that God uses to influence others in his direction and in the direction of loving service to others.

And, we need each other in this 'ministry of us' way of thinking and living...Pastor Stephen and then a Membership Moment.