



REDWOOD

COVENANT CHURCH

July 15, 2010

Dear Friends,

Oops...My bad!

You ever do something wrong? Good, I was afraid it was only me who made mistakes. I remember mowing my boss' lawn when I was in high school. His son said, "Whatever you do, please don't mow the 'golf ball plant' over in this corner." "Sure, no problem", I said. Until I turned the mower too quickly and "Flaaapppp", there went the golf ball plant. There are some things you just can't fix. Slicing and dicing a Titleist plant is one of them. You can imagine the moment I told the son what I did.

Is it possible for us to look back on the "oops-es" of our lives, admit fault, seek forgiveness and then live free from the guilt?

John has some words for us.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (I John 1:9)

OK, so God forgives me. But me forgive me? That's a different story. I'm afraid I can't let go.

Listen to John again.

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. (I John 4:18)

Fear has to do with punishment. I'm guilty for what I did. If I admit my fault, I find not only forgiveness but a love that perfects me by driving my fear, guilt, shame, embarrassment far away. No need to carry the guilt when we hear, "It's OK. Really, I forgive you." In today's language when I say "My bad" in the game and my opponent says, "No harm, no foul", we can keep playing.

If you've been carrying some Oops clippings in the mow bag of your life, stop by this Sunday morning at 9:30 or 11:11, dump your bags with the ministry sky cap, pick up perfect love and head back out to "keep playing."

When you really understand the power of a perfect, unconditional, forgiving love, you want to share the news. Please pray for RCC folks who are doing and going to do the work of our Lord including a team in Mexico now building a home; 40 Students & Leaders from our Emmaus Student Ministry heading Sunday morning to Chicago then some of them onto Spain; MJ Oliveri to Congo; Karl & Erika Brown to Uganda and their

brother Mike Brown off to Switzerland. This grace experience must be powerfully contagious because a lot of folks from Redwood Covenant Church are going around the community and world to share good news.

Continue to pray for the wisdom and discernment of the Search Team and Leadership Team as we seek a new Lead Pastor for our church. This decision will impact the next 10 to 25 years of the life of our church!

Mowing guilt free and replanting after the mistakes,
Pastor Doug Webster