

Children's sermon: January 24, 2010
"Pants on the ground"

Fred is Fred ... just like you are YOU!!
Fred ... like each of us ... is unique. But ----- Fred doesn't seem to fit in.
Everyday he goes to school ... wearing the same Chicago Bulls hat. Nice hat, right?
He likes it ... he wears it ... but ----- a lot of the kids make fun of Fred.
You know ... and I know ... there are lots of kids out there who are easy to make fun of. They way they look? ... the way they talk? ... what they like to do? ... being different?

Every morning ... Fred dreads going to school ... another day of name-calling and ridicule.
Some days Fred feels like "throwing in the towel."

Today he thinks to himself ... "maybe I should dress differently ... maybe then the other kids will like me."
He notices some kids ---- wearing their pants really "low" ... and their hats backwards and side-ways.
That's it ... Fred thinks ... I'll dress like that today!!

This morning he wears his pants really low.
He gets a big cap ... puts it on kind-of sideways.
Hey ----- how does Fred look now?????????
Before going to school ... he decides to watch a recording of this week's "American Idol" show.
Do you watch it???

Listen ----- here is the first song Fred heard:

"PANTS ON THE GROUND"!!!!!!!

The old guy who made this song up ... he's trying to say ----- YOU DON'T HAVE TO WEAR YOUR HAT SIDEWAYS AND YOUR PANTS HALF-WAY DOWN TO TINLEY PARK TO BE KOOL!!

In fact ... when you dress like this ... when you try to be "just like the others" ... well,
it makes you look stupid.

Fred looks at himself in the mirror.
"I don't have to dress like this!"
He realizes ----- who you are ... what you are *it's an inside job!!*
It's about your heart.
It's about your soul.
It's about being true to yourself as God's child.

Each of you, my friends ... is a unique and special child of God.
Jesus loves you and accepts you for WHO YOU ARE.

Now ----- I have for you: YOUR VERY OWN HAT.
Wear it with pride.

And ... if you are ever tempted to "throw on the towel" ... inside your hat is your very own new towel. Don't throw it ... just use it ... to keep yourself "clean and fresh" everyday.