

Children's sermon: March 27, 2011

**"Fred: different & giving"**

How would you like to be a waiter or waitress at a restaurant???? ... hey, it's noble calling ... unless you are always waiting on Swedish guys ----- they aren't very good "tippers." I'd like you to meeting the "Ball family." They look so perfect ----- beautiful, smooth, colorful balls. Except ... there is one goof in their family. Do you have a "goof" in your family????  
Are you the GOOF???

Every week they go to the same restaurant ----- the DUCK-TAPE CAFÉ. The seats have duck-tape on the them.

You sit on the tape ... and you don't fall off!! What a neat idea!!

The same little ping-pong ball waits on them. The Ball family ---- they order this poor waiter around ... make him work hard ... and when they leave ... this is how much of a "tip" they give: 73 cents.

Pete the ping-pong ball waiter never says anything ... but he's disappointed.

And ... after about a month of waiting on the Ball family ... this is how Peter feels:

*ALL BENT AND BEAT-UP!!!!*

They are in the restaurant again today.

Oh, by the way ----- here is FRED ... the family goof.

He looks different than his parents and brothers and sisters. He has different ideas ... likes things and does things the others don't do. He can drive you nuts ... but:

FRED HAS A GOOD HEART.

They order their food. Peter --- the ping-pong ball waiter ---- takes care of them.

It's time to go ... and ----- FRED GRABS THE BILL.

"I have a little announcement to make ..." Fred says, with a determined-loving look on his face.

"Guys like Peter ... who take care of us ----- they depend on our fairness and generosity to make a good living. Look how hard he works ... and look how tired he is.

It's about time ... #1 that we say THANKS ... and #2 ----- give the poor guy a GOOD TIP.

So, each of us ... you , too, mom and dad ... put a few bucks into this cup.

Finally ---- Peter is going to get the kind of TIP AND THANK-YOU he deserves."

As they leave the restaurant ... Peter runs up to Fred:

"Thanks so much ... you are so generous ... most of all ----- thanks for sticking up for me.

YOU ARE A GOOF ... I LOVE IT ... AND I LOVE THE SIZE OF YOUR HEART!!"

God gives us everything.

God gives us his son.

In life ----- the least we can do is to be FAIR AND GENEROUS TO OTHERS ... ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO TAKE CARE OF US.

Do you have any "generous goofs" in your family???? ... are you that generous "goof"?????

Here is your own goofy ball ----- a reminder to you ... go out into the world ...

AND BE A GIVER!!