

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 1:9

When my family moved out to Graham, we realized quickly that every one of our neighbors had dogs. They are great family pets and also great to guard the property which is extremely important in the neighborhood we live in. When we first bought our house, we adopted a yellow lab and named her Cheerio. We now have adopted a male lab and named him Captain.

Girl dogs and boy dogs are very different. Our female, Cheerio, is not concerned about getting into trouble but doesn't cause much herself. Our male dog, Captain, is very worried about getting in trouble and gets into mischief naturally. Every.Single.Day. He chews everything from fence posts, to lawn movers, to our sliding glass door. He is a sweet, sweet dog but he is trouble.

Last week it was raining very hard at night and I wanted to put him in his crate so he wouldn't run around the yard and night and get wet. I called for Cheerio and she hopped directly into her crate, settled her bedding and went to sleep.

I called for Captain once, then twice, and he still didn't come. Finally, I saw him creep from the front yard and sheepishly make his way onto the deck. I called for him to get into his crate but he sheepishly hid under the table. I called a few times for him to obey but he put his head down and ran under the deck and refused to come out. He always runs under the deck when he thinks he is in trouble and this night, he thought he was in trouble.

This is so true when we think God is angry with us about our own sin or shortcomings. We try to hide from God and not let him see our sin, mistakes and shame. He is inviting us to repentance, inviting us to be free from our sin, inviting us to confess our sin to Him so we can be forgiven. But if we refuse to come into his presence, hang our heads in shame and refuse the gift of grace through faith that he freely gives from repentance, we will spend our lives hiding from Him.

Captain spent all night under the deck and woke up the next morning filthy, wet and hungry. If he would have listened to my instructions, he would have slept in warm comfort that night.

Let's never be afraid to go to God with our sin. He will always forgive us.

I love you and God loves you!

Pastor Eric Lundberg