

**Word notes Sunday 15/03/09 Tony Hodge**  
**We all mess up**

**Summary** (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

The news and media may be full with stories of people who mess up but the truth is that we all fall short of God's mark (Is 53:6). Even when we're doing "good" things unless we're inline with God then it's all just filth to Him (Is 64:6). Unless we recognise this full reality of life – that there's more than just what we see, feel and do but that there is someone we'll have to answer to and unless we understand that God is a Father who wants the best for us not a mean old man who wants to punish us then we'll keep digging our hole deeper and deeper. We know God loves us not just by what He says but also by what He did (John 3:16).

What about Christians, do they mess up – yes of course we do (and thanks to Pete for sharing his own vulnerability). Yet the Good News that Jesus brought of God and the Kingdom remains for us all: Forgiveness, a cleansed conscience and the Holy Spirit to empower us. If we do mess up we can rely on His ongoing forgiveness (1 John 1:8-22).

For any of us that have made a commitment to God that's good – for those that haven't there's a straightforward way to be set free – Acknowledge (you've messed up and can't get it right without God), Believe (that Jesus is the Son of God who died for your sins), Confess (that you want to turn away from doing it your way and turn to following Jesus instead).

**Application** (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

Did the Lord have any specific words for any of the group through the worship, prayer or teaching this week? Please share to encourage each other.

Do you agree that Christians too can "mess up"? If yes and feel able to share please do, if no – discuss how this is.

If there are areas where one or more continually get it wrong what can be done to change this? Where possible pray for, support and help any who share.

**Witness** (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

Tony shared a simple way to tell people how to get right with God. What other ways do people know to explain how someone can "turn to Christ".