



# Links Players

## ON LOCATION 12: A GOOD SOLID WHY

*And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. (Romans 12:1, NLT)*

**G**OLFERS AREN'T DIFFERENT THAN OTHER LEARNERS. Some just want to know how to hold the club, how to take their stance, and how to swing the club back and through so the ball goes mostly where they want it to go. Others yearn to know how it all works—which part of the swing produces what kind of shot. This second group were probably those who grew up plaguing their parents with that most open-ended question: *Why?*

The answers to *why* are undoubtedly critical in a lot of endeavors. When we complain to our technician about his \$100 charge to fix a problem in five minutes, he tells us, “You don’t pay me to push the button. You pay me for knowing which button to push.” Problem solving is about *why*. And when we as leaders teach our employees or volunteers the *why* behind the *what*, we give them the gift of expertise.

*Why* may also be the most powerful question in regards to our faith. While we sometimes need to simply fall back on the old hymn’s directive to “trust and obey,” knowing why we believe and why God calls us to certain forms of righteousness can make a real difference.

In the fullness of understanding, *whys* can come in layers. Why, for instance, do we follow God’s directives on sexual purity? At one level, it is because he is God and he said so. At the next level, it is because sexual purity can keep us from all kinds of consequences—physical, emotional, relational, spiritual. Higher still, as we see in today’s scripture, we obey because we want to honor in our bodies the one who has saved us. We cannot break up these layers, for they have interwoven value. But when we understand the *whys* contained in each of them, we become all the more driven to follow the Lord.

As those being disciplined and those discipling others (we should always be both), we gain much spiritual ground when we look for the *whys* behind the actions of our faith. Knowing the *whys* gives us a fortified defense “against the devil’s schemes” (Ephesians 6:11). He’ll try to convince us that God’s reasons are flimsy, but we can respond that they are wholly secure. Then we can get back to the business of living for Jesus, because of all he has done for us.

**Opening questions** Are you a pretty simple learner, or do you want to know the purpose behind every step? • What are some of the biggest *why* questions you have for God?

**READING** Ephesians 2:4-8; Romans 6:11-14; Romans 12:1

### God’s *why* (Ephesians 2)

What did God’s love motivate him to do for us? How does this stir your own heart to obey and serve him?

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### Grace and sin (Romans 6)

Why is it that sin should no longer be our master if we are in Christ (v. 14)? What does it mean to you to offer yourself to God?

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### A living sacrifice (Romans 12)

The salvation God gives us should be the spark for making our lives a living sacrifice to him. What does this look like? What do you find hardest to give up to him? Have you ever thought of living rightly as worship?

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Written by Jeff Hopper ©2019 Links Players International. An accompanying introductory video for this study is available here: <https://youtu.be/QDsoml8Dhcl>.