



# Links Players

## WHY AM I HERE? 10: MIRRORING CHRIST'S LOVE

*“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35, ESV)*

**A**S GOLFERS, WE ARE ALL ABOUT MIRRORING the look, the attitude, and the swing of our favorite player. It starts young, but no age seems to be exempt. Show up at the Waste Management Phoenix Open and you’ll see kids who are under 10 and over 20—and maybe even a grandmother—wearing Rickie Fowler orange.

We call those people fans, and most of them are not shy about wearing the colors, buying the clubs, and singing the praises of the player they admire most. I played nine holes with a 13-year-old boy at my club last week and he was all about Rory. I could see it. Could he see that I was all about Jesus?

Of course, it would be easier to show Jesus if he had worn a flat-billed cap or had some other outward appearance thing we could copy. Instead, Jesus left us with something on the inside we can mirror, and that something is love.

Jesus said that “all people” will recognize people as his followers if they have love for one another. I realize that he spoke these words directly to his closest disciples just hours before he was betrayed and crucified. These are among the last words of Jesus to his apostles, and I think the words had a special meaning for them.

But I think they also apply to us, along with most of the rest of this extended final discourse that began just after the last supper and finished with Jesus’ prayer in John 17. (Jesus even prayed directly for us there: John 17:20-21.)

In the verse preceding today’s verse, Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” What was new about loving one another? It was doing it the same way Jesus did. Notice this phrase: “just as I have loved you.”

Even if I love my brothers and sisters in Christ, and I love my enemies, do I love them just as Jesus has loved me? Am I willing to be patient and forgiving and nurturing the same way Jesus was? Am I willing to make the same sacrifice for them that Jesus made for me?

Putting on love is much harder than putting on a red shirt and black pants, or a Payne Stewart cap. But only golfers recognize those. All people recognize love.

**Opening questions** Do you know anyone who has a favorite golfer they copy? How do they do that? Do they like it if you notice? Have you ever thought about “looking like Jesus” on the golf course?

**READING** John 13:34-35, 1 John 2:7-11, Ephesians 5:1-2

### A command (John 13)

Jesus commanded his followers to love. Can we choose to love? When he said to love “one another,” did that only mean other disciples or does it mean all people? How and why is our love proof of our discipleship?

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### Old and new (1 John 2)

Why did John say he wasn’t writing a new commandment but an old one, then say that it was also new? How is it true in Jesus and in us? What does love have to do with light?

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### Walk (Ephesians 6)

What does it mean to be an imitator of God? How is that different than being an imitation God? What does it look like to “walk in love”? How is Christ’s love identified by Paul? Are we supposed to copy that? If so, how?

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Written by Lewis Greer ©2020 Links Players International. An introductory video for this study is available here: <https://youtu.be/2kfRSTBFVrs>