



# Links Players

## Fundamentals - Lesson 3: "N" is for Networking The "One Anothers" in Scripture

*And let us consider how to **stir up one another** to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another**, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:34-35)*

Imagine playing a quick nine at sunset, and you are alone. You arrive at the sixth tee and pull your five iron. You get behind the ball, establish your line, address the ball, and make an easy practice swing. You step into the shot; you swing, and the next thing you know, the ball rolls into the hole. There it is—one hundred eighty-two yards—slight breeze—a tad uphill—and you’ve aced it!

Then it dawns on you. You are alone! You eagerly look around to see if anyone saw it. Your mind is racing! You ask yourself: Is there a foursome on the next tee box? Is the greenskeeper anywhere in sight? Did anyone see it? Will anyone believe me?

As followers of Christ, we are truly never alone. We always have the "Audience of One." Ultimately, God saw your hole in one and smiled at your joy.

Playing alone certainly has its benefits. You can work on certain aspects of your game without rushing. You can play your own Captain’s Choice, hitting three or four shots and playing the best one. Nine holes, by yourself, late in the afternoon, might be just the way to decompress from a day’s work.

Ideally, however, golf is meant to be played with others. One group I particularly love to play with if for no other reason than their expertise in trash talk. I always leave refreshed from laughter, and wish every golfer could play with people like Butch, Jim, and Jack.

We are all familiar with the perennial question—If you had one last round to play, who would you like in your foursome? Maybe there is an exception, but I’ve never heard anyone answer—I would prefer to play alone. Golf, at its best, is played with others, in great weather and, as the British say, "on form."

Scripture uses the phrase "one another" roughly one hundred times. More than a few poignant insights emerge from meditating on these verses. But hardly any one of them could be more important than

understanding our need for each other. Jesus never intended us to go it alone.

The word networking is our modern synonym capturing the vital importance of all the "one another" statements. Our daily devotions are designed to "encourage one another," "stir one another up," and "edify one another." Our Links Fellowships aim to honor scripture by "...encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." (Hebrews 10:25).

Our hopes and prayers focus on "standing side by side" with you in gospel enrichment and growth (Philippians 1: 27). My Christ the King, enlarge our sphere of influence and penetration into golf clubs the world over.

**Prayer – Jesus! Find us faithful as we endeavor, in your power, to partner with one another in gospel advancement!**

**READING - John 13: 34-35; Romans 14: 19; Galatians 5:13.**

**OPENING QUESTIONS:** Have you ever had a hole-in-one while playing alone? Have you ever had or observed another’s hole-in-one in a foursome? What is different about achieving something like a hole-in-one alone versus doing it with friends? Who among your group has had the most?

1. In **John 13:34-35**, what two things is our Lord teaching us? *Hint* - Who and what is the example for loving one another (34)? What is one outcome from our loving one another (35)?

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2. In **Romans 14:19**, what two things are meant by "peace" and "building up one another?" *Hint* – what is the opposite of strife and disparaging remarks?

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3. In **Galatians 5:13**, what does Paul mean when he writes not to use our freedom for an "opportunity in the flesh?" What are we positively encouraged to do with our freedom? *Hint* – we serve not ourselves, but \_\_\_\_\_!

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