

## **It's Who You Know**

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Command Chaplain

Ask anyone who has ever played golf with me and they will tell you that I am really bad, but it is fun to play with me. For one thing, I generally make the other person feel pretty good about their own game. For another, I don't take it too seriously, which means that when I lose, I don't get upset about it. I figure that I have come out ahead simply by being out playing golf with friends.

The question always comes up as to where to play. I have played a few of the courses in the area. Some of them are very beautiful courses. Others seem to be struggling just to stay open and offer very low fees to play. Usually, I choose to play on base. I have several reasons for doing this.

First, I like the Pro. Louis is a very likeable person. He knows what he is doing but he never talks down to other people. He takes each person at his or her level of knowledge and experience and builds upon it. He encourages everyone and tries to help them improve. He makes it an enjoyable place to be.

Next, I go because it is convenient. I live on base and it is easy to run over to the golf course when I have the time to play. It is also next to the Chapel and one would think this would make it easier for me to run over and play, but that has not proven to be the case.

One of the main reasons I play there is because that is where many of my friends play. I am not one who will generally go to a course I don't know and meet other golfers and develop friendships. Instead, I am more likely to find out where my friends play and then go with them.

Did you know that these reasons are the same reasons people choose to go to church? Actually, the first reason listed is usually the least influential for someone coming to a church, but is a significant factor in keeping people coming. We will continue to go to a church if we like the Pastor, the resident "Pro." However, if we don't particularly like him, we will usually find somewhere else to attend.

Many people will attend a church simply because it is close by or in the neighborhood. It just doesn't make sense for them to drive by several churches in order to attend one across town.

The most important reason that most people chose to attend one church over another is because they have been invited by people who are already their friends. And the more friends they have who attend the church, the more likely they are to make it their regular place of worship.

It may be that some of your friends are waiting to be invited by you to attend your church. I would encourage you to look around at your unchurched friends and invite them to join you. If you have mutual friends who also attend, encourage them to invite others, too.

If you don't attend church regularly, or you are looking for a church home, find out where your friends go and join them this Sunday. You might even find that you enjoy sitting under the instruction of that church's "Pro."

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in Church on Sunday.