

The Lakeview Lamp

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." – Psalm 119:105

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"I Don't Want To Be Involved"

Don C. Truex

In theory, none would deny the importance of the local body of believers. Our participation, however, sometimes belies the true sentiment of our hearts. Much of this discrepancy would be alleviated if we were to truly come to understand the concept of "membership" in the body. Listen to Paul: *"For as we have many members in one body, but all members do not have the same function, we being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another,"* (**Romans 12:4,5**). Membership in a local church implies much more than simply having one's name and picture in a directory. It acknowledges that we are willing to fulfill the "one another" obligations that are essential to the relationship, i.e. "love," "serve," "bear with," "admonish," "forgive," etc.

What can we do to be better involved in the local church? Let me suggest several things.

First, realize your dependence. No Christian can function effectively by himself. Just as a hand severed from an arm ceases to function and will inevitably die, so also a Christian who does not participate with the other members of the body is destined to decay and die spiritually. Sometimes you hear a brother say, "I don't need the local church. I can function just fine by myself." Really? Then you're saying you know more about spiritual health than the apostle Paul. He taught that one member can never say to another, *"I don't need you!"* (**1 Corinthians 15:21**).

Secondly, emphasize equality. No member of a local body of believers should feel smug or superior to any other (**Romans 12:3**). God designed both the physical and spiritual body so that all the members are important. The applications of this principle are legion. Members of our physical body are quick to aid any injured member; they do not ambitiously draw attention to themselves in order to protect a weaker member of the body. So also, in the local church, when we learn to *"bear one another's burdens,"* to *"bear the infirmities of the weak."* When we do that, the body as a whole is strengthened.

Third, work for unity. God designed the human body to love harmony and hate discord. In fact, when there is discord in the human body we say that it has a "disease." The principle holds true spiritually as well. That's why Paul encourages us to *"endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace"* (**Eph 4:3**).

Now, how healthy would the body be if every member functioned just like you?

Following the Rules

Troy Nicholson

On July 19, 2008, Michelle Wie was disqualified following the third round at the LPGA State Farm Classic. What did she do? Throw a club? Attack a spectator? No, she failed to sign her score card the right way after the second round. That sounds like such a minor thing, but it is a violation of Rule 6-6 b., Signing and Returning Score Card, according to The Rules of Golf and confirmed by the USGA. The rule states, “After completion of the round, the competitor should check his score for each hole and settle any doubtful points with the Committee. He must ensure that the marker or markers have signed the score card, sign the score card himself, and return it to the Committee as soon as possible.”

Wie did sign her scoring card, but not until she had left the scoring area by 40 yards and a volunteer ran to stop her. The 2008 LPGA Rules of Play define the scoring area as the roped area defining the boundary of the scoring tent. Item No. 3, Returning Score Card, Rule 6-6, states, “A player is deemed to have returned her score card to the Committee when she leaves the roped area of the scoring tent or leaves the scoring trailer.”

In response to the situation Wie said, “You know, it’s just really unfortunate. I don’t know what happened to me. Usually, I sign it first. But I forgot to sign the scorecard. Unfortunately, I left the tent area, and a couple of the scorers went after me and I signed it and I turned it in. And I thought it would be okay. But it was an honest mistake. I don’t know why or how it happened. But, you know, I just forgot to sign it. It was really unfortunate, but hopefully it won’t happen again. It was a good learning experience.”

“I thought it would be okay.” Rules must be followed rather than thoughts. Nadab and Abihu thought it would be okay to offer “*strange fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. And fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them*” (**Lev 10:1-2**). In spiritual issues what we think does not matter, only what the Lord says.

“But it was an honest mistake.” Uzza could have used this reasoning when he “*put out his hand to hold the ark, because the oxen nearly upset it,*” but he did not get the opportunity. “*The anger of the LORD burned against Uzza, so He struck him down because he put out his hand to the ark*” (**1 Chron 13:9-10**). Being honestly mistaken does not remove the consequences.

The requirement for the player’s signature first appeared in the Rules of Golf book in 1948. Some now say that the rule is archaic, but it is still a rule that must be followed. Some now say that God’s rules in the Bible are archaic, but they are still rules that must be followed. “*Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away*” (**Matt 24:35**).

“It was a good learning experience.” For Wie, she can move on to the next golf game and play again, hopefully learning her lesson. Once we stand before God in judgment, there will not be another opportunity to apply what we learn (**2 Cor 5:9**). We must get it right the first time in the game of life.

News and Notes

Members:

- * Virginia Bryant **has a doctor's appointment on the 23rd and hopes to be referred to a specialist for her hip.**
- * Mary Burnett remains at home on Hospice care.
- * Connie Cobern sprained her ankle last week.
- * Metty Fain remains in Highland Manor Nursing Home; Room B2; 215 Highland Circle Dr; Portland, TN 37148.
- * Sarah Neighbours is having outpatient surgery tomorrow at 11 AM to correct what is believed to be a hernia.
- * Ame White **has several doctors' appointments in the next few weeks.**

Friends and Family:

- * Matt and Lauren (Richardson) Bassford, brethren in the Chicago area, lost their baby, Macy. She was at 42 weeks.
- * Madison Cherry, **the Neighbours' niece, is at Vanderbilt with an enlarged kidney and blood not clotting due to a bacterial infection.** She is stable and improving but is anticipated to remain there for two weeks.
- * **Sandlyn Fultz's** surgery Tuesday went well, and she is back home. They are still waiting for pathology results to see if they achieved clear margins. Also, her birthday is next Monday, Sept. 29.
- * Peggy Ridings, **Sandra Boyd's mother, will be 85 years old Tuesday, Sept. 23.** She is in poor mental and physical health but enjoys getting mail. Sandra has requested cards for her birthday. 1002 Hart St., Gallatin.

Absent: Jennifer Nicholson and kids (AL), Jim and Jo Ann Wooton (gas).

New Reports: None known.



“He has made His wonders to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and compassionate. He has given food to those who fear Him; He will remember His covenant forever.” – Psalm 111:4-5