

"Playing Church"

What "church game" are you playing today?

The "entertain me" game
The "make me feel better" game
The "give me something" game
The "stomp on my toes" game
The "going through the motions" game

When the game doesn't go my way:

Criticize my teammates
Blame the officials
Change teams

Who are we, anyway?

God's church: ownership
Sanctified in Christ Jesus: difference
Called to be holy: character

We are a community of grace:

Getting one thing when we deserve the other
We are receiving grace
We are bestowing grace
We are depending on grace
We are demonstrating grace

We are a community of peace:

Loving relationships of caring and trust
We live in peace with God
We enjoy peace in ourselves
We defend peace with each other
We show peace to the world

A relationship of interdependence:

I really do need the church
The church really does need me
We all really need each other
The world really does need the church

Will I stop playing church and begin praying church?

1 Corinthians 1:1-10

1:1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

2 To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:

3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. 5 For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge— 6 because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. 7 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. 8 He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

10 I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

NIV



Follow us on
twitter

What is Twitter?

Twitter is a social networking service that allows you to share status updates with friends. It helps you share what you are thinking and doing with others. We use Twitter to send mobile updates from our services and enable you to interact with us during services. With Twitter, you can keep up with what's happening when you can't be here, and let us know what you are thinking when you are.

How does Twitter work?

When you send twitter an update, that status goes out to all your "followers." If you follow Middletownnaz, you will get our updates about the services either online or on your cell phone. When you reply to those messages, you send out a status update to your followers, including us.

How do I sign up?

Signing up is easy. Simply text "follow middletownnaz" (without the quotes) to 40404. If you have an account, you will become our follower and get our updates on your phone. If you don't, it will prompt you to create a new username. Just reply to that message with a username, and you're all set up.

How do I manage my account?

Go to <http://twitter.com> to set up your account and set options like protecting your status updates so only friends can see them. Just make sure you accept us as your friend!

How much does it cost?

Twitter is free, but standard text messaging rates apply, so make sure you have a plan that provides enough texts a month.

How do I stop getting updates?

Simply send "Off" (without the quotes) to 40404. You will have to send it twice to turn off all messages to your phone.

Sermon Notes

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1 Corinthians 1:1-10

"Playing Church"

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Middletown

Church of the Nazarene

Middletown, Indiana

Master copy of notes and audio version of the sermon at
www.middletownnaz.com