

## ***“The Back 9: Life Lessons Learned Later in Life”***

### ***Hole #11, “Community”***



#### ***“The 14-Club Rule”***

*“My swing is so bad I look like a caveman killing his lunch.”*

Lee Trevino, Champion Golfer

Lee Trevino’s golf swing was unlike any other in his day or ours. Throughout his career, Lee invited all of us to laugh with him about his self-proclaimed “ugly” golf swing. His professional golf career spanned six decades with 92 professional victories including six major championships. Inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 1981, Lee Trevino is one of the greatest and most beloved players in the history of the game. Not every golf swing is alike nor is every golf club. That is the beauty of this game. Being different is good.

What is true in golf is also true in life. God made each one of us uniquely different from one another. No two fingerprints are the same. Like the 14 different clubs in one golf bag, God has created each one of us with unique gifts and talents for a reason. No one club is greater or more valuable than any other club is. The driver is the longest club in the bag and some golfers use it to hit the golf ball over 300 yard with one swing! The putter is the club used to hit the ball only a few inches into the hole. The two clubs are very different, yet both are essential clubs in the bag. Players use a pitching wedge to hit the ball high over a hazard and land it softly on the other side. A 3 iron hits the ball low and far. The golfer uses all 14 clubs in collaboration to accomplish a single purpose, shooting a low score. If God made you a pitching wedge, be a pitching wedge! Do not worry about hitting the ball far like the driver or smooth like the putter. You are unique

and valuable to God just as you are. Celebrate your unique place in God's golf bag. No one else can do what God created you to do. Your unique gifts bring value to the community. As we continue the Back 9 holes of life, the 11<sup>th</sup> hole is where we will learn the valuable life lesson of *Community*.

### **Hole #11, "Community"**

The Apostle Paul is writing a letter to believers in Corinth who are suffering at the hands of one another. They are engaging in quarrels and disputes about their leaders. They are taking one another to court. After their board meetings, they are having parking lot conversations about one another. Their church is a mess. Paul addresses these quarreling believers by describing the diverse parts of the human body as a metaphor for the church. The church is one body with many parts: hands, ears, eyes, feet, and the heart. All the parts function together as one body. Each individual part celebrates its unique function.

*"Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body."*

*I Corinthians 12:14-20*

Lee Trevino's swing was uniquely his own. God never intended for us to all be the same. A golfer would never think of placing 14 putters in his or her golf bag! Like different clubs in a golf bag, we each serve a unique purpose in the community of faith. We need each other to perform at our best in this game called life. We are better together. Now, on to the 12<sup>th</sup> hole, the most difficult hole on the course, a 200 yard carry over water into the wind. Selecting the right club for this shot is key. I think I will use an old ball just in case...