

I love the sound of golf compared to the sounds of other sports that I also enjoy. Golf has such a quiet, civilized sound. Maybe it's the hushed sound of tension and anticipation. The comments of a wise sportscaster are soft so as not to disturb the golfer's concentration. The crowd is still. At last the ball rolls toward the hole unaffected by body language, when suddenly despite the best intentions of the one who sent it on its mission, it misses the mark. And a hush of disappointment is barely heard from the crowd; "Oh!" After all, close doesn't count in golf.

So, how close are you when it comes to a [winning] relationship with God that will matter for all eternity?

What do you know?

What really matters?

How close are you?

Personal Application and Interaction

1. Describe a time when you hoped you would get credit for being close only to be reminded that close only counts in...?
2. How can you relate to the people in Jesus' day (Matt. 22:34-40; Mk. 12:28-34; Lk. 10:25-28) who wanted Him to identify the most important commandment?
3. What was behind the way He boiled the commandments down to two and what made His point so remarkable?
4. What did the teacher of the law understand about the law that drew such an important response from Jesus?
5. What's your story about being close but not quite there when it comes to the Kingdom of God?



How close are you?

Mark 12:28-34

Pastor John
September 3, 2017

