

Trivia question ...

What was said in the first football huddle?

If you don't know how the (American) football huddle originated, you would never be able to guess. In the beginning, players just stood around and talked about what play to use next. The opposition was far enough away so that they usually couldn't overhear it.

But at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., the university for deaf people, that wouldn't do. If an opposing coach learned sign language, the team's secrets weren't safe. So Paul Hubbard, the school's star quarterback in the 1890s, developed the huddle, with the team facing away from its opponents, concealing their finger talk. It caught on and became part of the game. (Source: *Washington Monthly*, 1987)

Nothing was said in the huddle.



Do we have 'secret plans' or are we telling people about "the REAL game of life"? *Eternal life. We all will live forever.*

The question is, "Where?"

Here's the *game plan* – Since we are going to live forever, and forever is a long, long time, we should be concerned about the *where*, right?

A football play, told to the team in the huddle, might be a fairly complicated plan to execute. In life, the plan is really pretty simple. — The Bible says in John 3:16 that God so loved the world (actually the people, and that includes you and me) that He gave His only son (that's Jesus dying) that whoever believes in Him (trusts that Jesus paid the price for our not meeting God's required standard) will have eternal life (that's eternity in Heaven, rather than Hell).

Now if you really believe that, you would want to *live* in such a way that is honoring to Jesus, who paid for your "ticket" to Heaven, wouldn't you? That's the "hard part." Just like executing the play on the football field is the hard part, because the opponent will try to interfere. → → →

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Can you be a Christian without being "religious"?

Jesus attacked the "religious" leaders of the day over and over again. He called them a "brood of vipers," snakes (Matthew 3:7, 12:34, and 23:33) among other things. -- He also compared God to a Master who gave a banquet, inviting the "religious leaders." They wouldn't come. So then he sent servants out to compel, make, urge (Luke 14:23) anyone they could find to come to His banquet. – His banquet is Heaven. His invitation to the banquet is His free salvation gift. – It doesn't require "being religious." It requires accepting the invitation, and then coming to the banquet.

If I accept the invitation and eat and get all the benefits, I'd want to do what the Master wanted... that's living "right," which moral and right and pure. He gave us a guide-book, the Bible. The Bible is not about "churchianity." -Jesus reduced the Bible down to two sentences in Matthew 22 and, Mark 12 (quoting Deut 6:5 & Lev 19:18) 'Love God. Love your neighbor.' – "Church" is where we are encouraged to do those two things.

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