

## Revealing our Character -Submissiveness

Thursday, June 12th, 2008

### READY:

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; old things have passed away, and look, new things have come."

-2 Corinthians 5:17

### SET:

I have been involved in one sport or another as a player, referee or coach for over thirty years. I have also been an avid sports fan, cheering on all my favorite teams. During this time, I have heard many people comment on how sports "build character."

I have observed many professional and college athletes, as well as many future stars who are just starting out. With some of these athletes, the idea that sports build character is true. Some of these athletes grow into good sportsmen and women, putting their teams first and being team players.

Unfortunately, all too often, instead of sports building character, they actually reveal negative character traits. How do we react when we think the referee made a bad call? What do we do if a teammate misses the winning shot, strikes out for the third out in the ninth inning, or allows the winning goal to be scored with only seconds to play?

The Bible speaks about character often. When we turn our lives over to Christ, we are to give up the "old self" and put on the "new self." We are to turn from our sinful ways and look to Jesus for strength and guidance. We are to have patience with fellow believers, as well as unbelievers. How is an unbeliever going to accept Christ into his life when he doesn't see a difference in ours?

### GO:

1. Can you think of a time when you let unwholesome character show on the field or court?
2. Do you lift up your teammates when they don't make the big play?
3. Do you support your coach on the decisions he or she makes during practices and games?