



Good Team

Friday, April 24th, 2009

READY:


"If then there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by thinking the same way, having the same love, sharing the same feelings, focusing on one goal."

-Philippians 2:1-2

SET:

A successful partnership is a key in any sport, no matter how many athletes are playing at once. Let's think about basketball specifically. You start with a pick-up game of two-on-two. In that situation, you must work hand-in-hand with your teammate in order to prevent your two opponents from scoring, and you also must find a way to score yourself. Usually, in order to become efficient teammates, you have to play a few games together in order to figure it out. And the more you play together, the better your partnership becomes.

The same would be true if you added more players to the game. However, the more players on your team, the more practice it takes in order to become good. It takes more time to have five players figure out what's required of them than two because there's a more combined effort to play together as a unit.



Did you know that the same can be said of the Body of Christ, a.k.a. God's team? I don't have to tell you that we're dealing with more than five players on a basketball court. There are millions of followers of Jesus worldwide. The same things that make you a good teammate or partner on a sports team are really the same things that make you a good teammate in God's Kingdom. On a sports team, the goal is to score more than your opponent. God's Kingdom is so much more important than that. The effort to be a good teammate has eternal consequences. It is to represent the God of the universe and His unbelievable plan for redemption, the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Yes, there are many people in God's Kingdom, which makes it tough to be a good teammate. As we said, we're talking about millions of fellow believers. But don't worry about them. You just concentrate on doing your part to fulfill the things of God by encouraging unity and strengthening the partnerships on your eternal team.

GO:

1. How can you be a better teammate on your sports team? God's team?
2. How can you encourage unity and strengthen partnerships within the Body of Christ? Consider the eternal consequences of your relationships in the church. You represent the Gospel!

WORKOUT:

1 Corinthians 12

