

## Come let us Grow Together: Sports

Come let us Grow Together is a weekly series that deals with the many topical categories that exist within the Word of God. The purpose of this series is to grow in wisdom, knowledge and understanding in things pertaining to God.

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” (2 Cor 6:14-7:1)

We as the sons and daughters of the Father and “the temple of the living God” are told as “Having therefore these promises”, referring to the promises in Christ Jesus our Lord and “heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him”, (Rm 8:17) that we are to “cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit” and to also be “perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” We as the sons and daughters of the Father are to walk in Christ. Rooted and built up in Christ. Established in the faith of the gospel teaching of Jesus Christ abounding in the faith with all thanksgiving even as we have been taught by the Word of God throughout the New Testament.

Sports are not only very time consuming whether you are playing them or only watching them but sports are of the world of which we are told “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” (1 Jn 2:15-17) Sports and competition within them evoke many spirits, attitudes, and ungodly behavior. The clothing worn in the majority of sports are very ungodly and we as the sons and daughters of the Father were told to “cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thes 5:21-23) Many sports themselves are all about sexuality and sensuality. They not only have completely inappropriate clothing but the very acts of which they are doing are ungodly! Are you still listening to me? Hear it again, “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly

beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.” (1 Jn 2:3-6)