

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

SPORTS

Sport is one of the great Australian gods! We as a nation are sports crazy!
(as indeed is in the case in many countries).

I Tim 4:7,8 '.....and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.

For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.'

NOTE - the goal is GODLINESS!

QUOTES : " I once heard a godly man say that modern Christianity has accepted a counterfeit version of joy and peace by looking to Hollywood **and professional sports.**" (emphasis added)
Set apart Femininity p 73 by Leslie Ludy

People watch to get excitement and pleasure!

" Yale Divinity school professor Miroslaw Volf has observed that today 'the idea of flourishing as an human being has shriveled to mean no more than leading an experientially satisfying life.' The quest for personal and community improvement has been repleted with the pursuit of pleasurable experiences."

Essential Virtues p 152 by Jim Berg

IS SPORT RIGHT OR WRONG?

Firstly note that there are what is called both competitive sports and recreational activities.

Why do people play sport? Primarily for these reasons - pleasure, excitement, relaxation, get fit.

Some things to consider :-

1. Money spent on sport (playing & watching)
2. Amounts of money paid to sports 'stars'!
3. Time spent playing/practising cf time with & serving the Lord.

4. Time spent watching.
5. Physical contact sports cf I Cor 13
Think about this - a young boy will be disciplined for knocking down his brother BUT will be applauded for knocking down an opposition player during a game!!
6. Competitors dress - running, swimming, boxing, gymnastics etc
Do they qualify for Biblical modesty?
7. Unequal yoke in teams etc - I Cor 6:12-
8. Can I glorify God while playing sport?

Some principles to consider:-

1. Profitable v's Pleasurable
Sport is all about winning!
Vince Lombardi (Green Bay Packers) said - " If it is not important to win, then why do they keep the score?"
Does it promote preferring others? Rom 12:10; Phil 2:3,4
2. Temporal v's Eternal
Even if win a medal, cup, flag etc SO WHAT!!!!
God's measure of greatness can be found in Mark 10:42-45
3. Lawful v's Expedient
How is it helping me spiritually? - I Cor 10:23
4. Edifying v's Enslaving
Time spent watching game, replays, discussions etc I Cor 6:12
5. From Above or From Beneath
Where does it come from? - I John 2:15-17