

The Big Game

1 Corinthians 9:19-27

1. Winning is **Everything**—but depends what you are winning.

Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

—1 Corinthians 9:25

Winning is not everything, but wanting to win is.

Winning isn't everything, but the will to win is everything.

Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing. --Vince Lombardi

“For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”— 1 Timothy 4:8,

Winning = Value (“*some value*”)

- Self-esteem for children.
- Fit into a peer group, friends,
- Parental pride
- Career—pro sports
- Scholarships—college degree
- Physical health and fitness

Ephesians 6:4, *“Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”*

Proverbs 22:6, *Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.*

2. **Worldly** winning costs.

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.

—1 Corinthians 9:24

Nearly 36 million children ages 6 to 17 (74%) in the US participate in team sports.

70% of those children will drop out of sports by age 13.

There are about 3.5 million sports-related injuries to kids under 15.

At a time when children should be looking forward to years full of sports, they're either too burnt out or too hurt to play.

Advice to girls, marry a geek; don't look to the popular quarterback, football star, but marry a smart, student, committed Christian.

3. **Christian** winning costs.

No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. —1 Corinthians 9:27

As a Christian and fair coach, players missing practice the day before a game will not start. —Coach Bain, Rockwood High School Baseball

When we put Christ first, there will be times when sports must come second.

4. Winning the **Greatest** Prize.

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. —1 Corinthians 9:24

- **Lessons from Walt Mueller**, Center for Parent/Youth Understanding (CPYU)
 1. If your child hasn't been blessed by God with athletic ability, don't push them.
 2. If your child has been blessed by God with athletic ability, don't push them.
 3. Let them have fun.
 4. Teach them how to win and lose with dignity.

- **Be a godly example to your children.**
 - Pray as much as you play with them.
 - Practice spiritual disciplines as much as athletic drills.
 - Let the Spirit guide you more than sports.
 - Teach servanthood over winning
 - Spent endless hours with your child in Christian experiences.

--Deuteronomy 5:6-21, 6:6-7

- **Promote Christ-like coaching**
 - Jim Thompson's Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA)

- **Be a witness.**
 - Participate in sports in a way so you may win Christ, win those around you to Christ including your children.*

December 23, 2008, *Grapevine fans give early Christmas gift to TYC football team.*

"Here's the message I want you to send:" Coach Hogan wrote. "You are just as valuable as any other person on planet Earth."

After the game, both teams gathered in the middle of the field to pray and that's when Isaiah surprised everybody by asking to lead, "Lord, I don't know how this happened, so I don't know how to say thank You, but I never would've known there was so many people in the world that cared about us."