

Don't Waste Your Sports

Review Questions

*The following questions will help you **review** the material presented in "Don't Waste Your Sports". The questions are designed for coaches, spectators, athletes, and parents of athletes to answer while watching, or after watching, the DVD.*

Sports Gone Ugly

- In your own words, what separates the beauty of sports from the ugliness of sports?
- What will keep us from turning sports into something ugly rather than beautiful?

Meeting God before the Opening Tip

- *Participation in sports must be informed by the knowledge of God in order to glorify God. And until we behold the glory of God in the face of Christ, we cannot accurately or authentically glorify God. **Beholding** precedes **playing**.*
- In what ways will an appropriate knowledge of God's glory inform our game-time attitude?

Sports as Worship

- *Participation in sports should be an act of worship to God. This perspective transforms the game into an opportunity to honor God, not to impress others and draw attention to ourselves. It affects why we play, how we play, and our attitude toward our coach, teammates, opponents, and officials.*

- As an athlete, spectator, coach, or parent of an athlete, what opportunities do you have to glorify God as you watch or play sports?

The Grateful Athlete

- *We glorify God in sports by giving thanks to God for sports. The ultimate purpose of sports, and of the benefits we derive from sports, is to reveal the greatness and the graciousness of God, thus provoking our thankfulness.*
- C.J. names several blessings we receive from sports. Name as many of these blessings as you can remember.
- A wise parent of an athlete will train his or her child to do what?
- List a few practical ways we can pause to “open the card” before playing or watching sports. What are we acknowledging? What does this thankfulness protect us from?

The Godly Athlete

- We glorify God in sports by displaying godly character. Sports provide a wonderful opportunity for the development and display of godly character. However, if culture, **not** Scripture, has informed our understanding of sports, what will result?
- What future event should inform the way we play and view sports, or the way we lead our children in these activities?

The Humble Athlete

- An athlete has many possible opportunities for humility. List a few specific examples.

The Servant Athlete

- Team sports provide many opportunities to serve others. C.J. lists a number of specific illustrations in his profile of a humble athlete. Make a list of the ways an athlete displays servanthood.
- What parents celebrate, children emulate. So what should parents of athletes encourage before a game and celebrate after the game?

When the Church and Sports Collide

- Interest in sports can range anywhere on a scale of healthy to idolatrous. To gauge ourselves, we need to examine our heart and our use of time. What questions should we ask in evaluating our hearts and our use of time?
- How do sports at times conflict with involvement in the local church?
- When absence from church becomes a pattern, and sports replace involvement in the local church, what is forfeited?

For more information about the DVD "Don't Waste Your Sports" by C.J. Mahaney, visit www.dontwasteyoursports.com

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Personal Application Questions

*The following questions will help you **apply** the material in "Don't Waste Your Sports" to your own life. The questions are intended for athletes and parents of athletes. They can be used for personal reflection or in small-group discussions.*

Questions for Athletes:

1. In what ways have you witnessed the ugliness of sports? Using biblical concepts, what made this experience ugly?
2. How would your parents, coach, and teammates say that you display godly character during practices and games?
3. Are you more concerned about winning or the development and display of godly character? Which do you celebrate more?
4. Would you say you fit the profile of a humble athlete? Do you pursue correction and critique? Do you encourage your teammates? Do you transfer all glory to God when you play well? How would your parents, coach, and teammates evaluate you as a humble athlete?
5. How would your parents, coach, and teammates say you demonstrate servanthood as an athlete?
6. Does your passion for sports exceed your passion for the Savior, your church, your family? What would your parents, coach, and friends say?

Questions for Parents of Athletes:

1. In what ways have you witnessed the ugliness of sports? Using biblical concepts, what made this experience ugly?
2. As the parent of an athlete, are you seeing Christ in your child as he or she participates in sports? How?
3. Would you say your child is more grateful for the “Giver” of the gift of sports, or for the gift of sports? How are you doing in training your child to be more grateful for the Giver of the gift of sports?
4. Are you more concerned about winning, or the development and display of godly character? Which do you celebrate more?
5. How would you like to see your child grow in godliness as through participation in sports?
6. Would you say your child fits the profile of a humble athlete? How are you doing in training your child to pursue humility as an athlete? Is it important to you as a parent that your child pursue and grow in humility for the glory of God?
7. How do you see your child serving others as an athlete?
8. Does your passion for sports, or your child's passion for sports, exceed a passion for the Savior, the church, or the family? What would your pastor, small-group leader, family, or friends say?

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