

# Serious Team Players

*Philippians 2:1-5*

**Sport competitions can teach us many principles about our lives as believers.**

1) Players must show up regardless of how they feel. Being in the mood to compete in a game or go to a practice doesn't matter. Serious players are committed to being part of the team! God's plan for the local body is for believers to gather for teaching, fellowship, prayer, for remembering the Lord's death (*Acts 2:42*). Those who forsake this assembling together (when they are capable of being there) don't value God's plan and priorities for battle preparedness. No serious member of a sports team would skip practices or consistently show up late or after a game has started!

2) Players must be open to correction. A coach observed, "Some players don't want to be coached." Believers should be willing to acknowledge their faults and learn from them. It is crucial to "despise not...the chastening of the Lord" (*Heb. 12:5*), to faint not when He rebukes through His Word and through faithful brothers and sisters in Christ.

3) Players must have their "heads in the game" and be constantly aware of opponents' every move. Continuous alertness is essential. Believers can rejoice in each small victory—each "goal" or "touch-down" or "basket"—but the battle goes on.

4) The most important aspect of a sports team is unity—with each other and with the coach. Believers must put aside petty differences for the furtherance of the Gospel; they must be "likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." Nothing must "be done through strife or vainglory." Rather, "in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves" (*Phil. 2:2-3*). Nothing is more important than each having the mind of their Heavenly Coach (*Phil. 2:5*) and a oneness with others in this conflict to which believers are called.

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)



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