

SPORT

IS GOD SILENT ? ...
MUST WE?



Presenter:
Br N Nkomo

AGENDA

- ⚽ **Definitions**
- ⚽ **Overview**
- ⚽ **“Favourable” Quotes**
- ⚽ **General Quotes**
- ⚽ **Ideal Exercise**
- ⚽ **7 V’s**

DEFINITIONS...Sport is

(N) 1 a: a source of diversion c (1): physical activity engaged in for pleasure (2): a particular activity (as an athletic game) so engaged in

(V) 1 a: to amuse oneself <lamb *sporting* in the meadow>

Websters Dictionary

(N) an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another or others

(V) amuse oneself or play in a lively way **Oxford Dictionary**

(N) an active diversion requiring physical exertion and competition

(V) frolic: play boisterously; "The children frolicked in the garden"; "the gamboling lambs in the meadows"; "The toddlers romped in the playroom" wordnet.princeton.edu/perl/webwn

OVERVIEW

Biblical Foundations

1Cor 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Phi 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are **true**, whatsoever things [are] **honest**, whatsoever things [are] **just**, whatsoever things [are] **pure**, whatsoever things [are] **lovely**, whatsoever things [are] of **good report**; if [there be] any **virtue**, and if [there be] any **praise**, think on these things.

1Cor 6:19,20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

2Tim 3:4traitors, rash, conceited, fond of [their own] gratification rather than fond of God; (CLV Interlinear)

OVERVIEW

Biblical Foundations

Phi 2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. (KJV)

Eritheia - Short Definition: ambition, rivalry

Definition: (the seeking of followers and adherents by means of gifts, the seeking of followers, hence) ambition, rivalry, self-seeking; a feud, faction.

Ancient Greek uses eritheia ("mercenary self-seeking") of acting for one's own gain, regardless of the discord (strife) it causes.

eritheía ("selfish ambition") places self-interest ahead of what the Lord declares right, or what is good for others.

Kenodoxia - vainglory, empty pride, groundless conceit



“FAVOURABLE” QUOTES

“FAVOURABLE” QUOTES

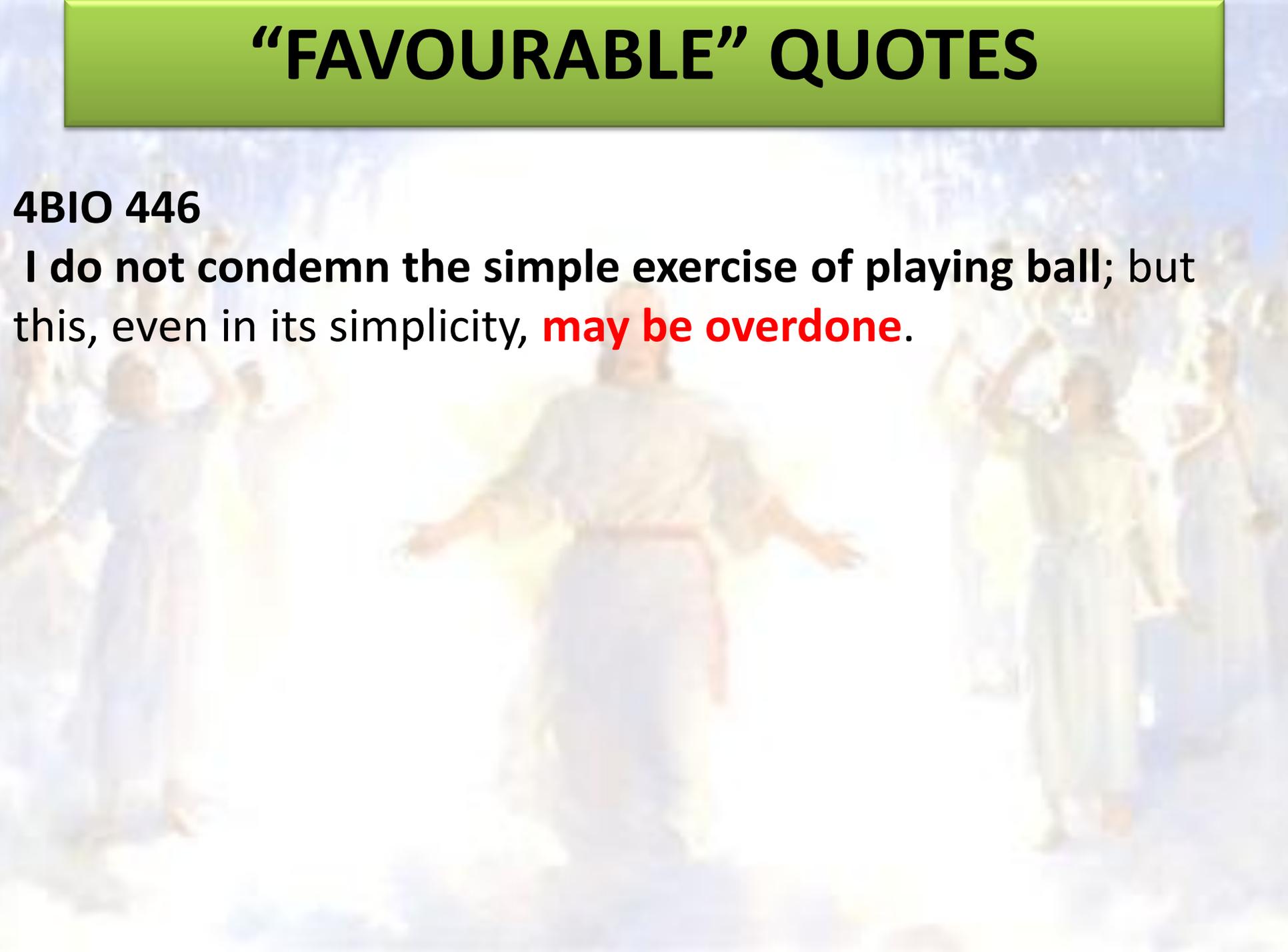
AH 222

Fathers, . . . combine affection with authority, kindness and sympathy with firm restraint. **Give some of your leisure hours to your children; become acquainted with them; associate with them in their work and in their sports, and win their confidence. Cultivate friendship** with them, especially with your sons. In this way you will be a **strong influence for good.**

“FAVOURABLE” QUOTES

4BIO 446

I do not condemn the simple exercise of playing ball; but this, even in its simplicity, **may be overdone.**



“FAVOURABLE” QUOTES

6T 205

Teachers should sometimes enter **into the sports and plays of the little children** and **teach them how to play**. In this way they may be able to **check unkind feelings and actions** without seeming to criticize or find fault. This **companionship will bind together** the hearts of teachers and pupils, and **school will be a delight to all**.

“FAVOURABLE” QUOTES

5T 523

Gymnasium exercises may in some instances be an advantage. They were brought in to **supply the want of useful physical training**, and have become popular with educational institutions; but they are not without drawbacks.



GENERAL QUOTES

GENERAL QUOTES

Ed 215

As a rule, the **exercise most beneficial to the youth will be found in useful employment.** The little child finds both diversion and development in play; and **his sports should be such as to promote not only physical, but mental and spiritual growth.** As he gains strength and intelligence, the best recreation will be found in some **line of effort that is useful.** That which **trains the hand to helpfulness,** and teaches the young to **bear their share of life's burdens,** is most effective in promoting the **growth of mind and character.**

GENERAL QUOTES

4BIO 441-446

We cannot here trace in detail the personal struggle Professor Hughes experienced. When, through Miss Peck, he inquired of Ellen White why, in the light of her counsel that teachers should play with their students, he should be reproved for what they had done, the answer came that **the students at Avondale were not children but young men and young women preparing to be laborers for God.** Then, with his concordance, he searched his Bible. One of the first references he turned to related to the children of Israel, when they "sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." Nor were other texts any more helpful. When he came to recognize **that winning in games meant others must fail,** he was led to conclude that the **spirit of most games and sports was not the right spirit of the adult Christian.** "These thoughts," he declared, "brought me out of darkness into light, and I left behind me an experience which was a very trying one."

GENERAL QUOTES

5T 523

Gymnasium exercises may in some instances be an advantage. They were brought in to supply the want of useful physical training, and have become popular with educational institutions; but they are not without drawbacks. **Unless carefully regulated, they are productive of more harm than good.** Some have **suffered lifelong physical injury** through these gymnasium sports. **The manual training connected with our schools, if rightly conducted, will largely take the place of the gymnasium.**

GENERAL QUOTES

CH 189

Some of the most popular amusements, such as football and boxing, **have become schools of brutality**. They are developing the same **characteristics as did the games of ancient Rome**. The **love of domination, the pride in mere brute force, the reckless disregard of life**, are exerting upon the youth a **power to demoralize** that is appalling.

Other athletic games, though not so brutalizing, are scarcely less objectionable, because of the excess to which they are carried. They stimulate the love of pleasure and excitement, thus fostering a distaste for useful labor, a disposition to shun practical duties and responsibilities. They tend to destroy a relish for life's sober realities and its tranquil enjoyments. Thus the door is opened to dissipation and lawlessness, with their terrible results.

GENERAL QUOTES

TM 83-84

Turn to another scene. **In the streets of the city is a party gathered for a bicycle race.** In this company also are those who profess to know God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent. But who that looks upon the exciting race would think that those who were thus exhibiting themselves were the followers of Christ?

Is God glorified by these performances? Satan is playing the game of life for these souls, and **he is well pleased with that which he sees and hears.**

The once earnest Christian who enters into these sports **is on the downgrade.** He has **left the region pervaded by the vital atmosphere of heaven, and has plunged into an atmosphere of mist and fog**

But there is **unmistakable evidence that God is forgotten.** He is **not in all their thoughts.** These parties of pleasure and gatherings for exciting sports, made up of those who profess to be Christians, **are a profanation of religion and the name of God.**

GENERAL QUOTES

CT 348-352

In the night season I was a witness to the performance that was carried on on the school grounds. The students who engaged in the grotesque mimicry that was seen, **acted out the mind of the enemy**, some in a very unbecoming manner. A view of things was presented before me in which the **students were playing games of tennis and cricket**. Then I was given instruction regarding the character of these amusements. They were presented to me as **a species of idolatry, like the idols of the nations**.

There were more than visible spectators on the ground. **Satan and his angels were there, making impressions on human minds**. Angels of God, who minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation, were also present, **not to approve, but to disapprove**. They were **ashamed** that such an exhibition should be given by the professed children of God. The forces of the **enemy gained a decided victory, and God was dishonored**. He who gave His life to refine, ennoble, and sanctify human beings **was grieved at the performance**.

GENERAL QUOTES

AH 500

Is the **eye single to the glory of God** in these games? I know that this is not so. There is a **losing sight of God's way and His purpose**. The employment of intelligent beings, in probationary time, **is superseding God's revealed will** and substituting for it the speculations and inventions of the human agent, **with Satan by his side to imbue with his spirit**. . . .The Lord God of heaven **protests against the burning passion cultivated for supremacy** in the games that are **so engrossing**.

GENERAL QUOTES

CT 456

I could refer to chapter after chapter of the Old Testament Scriptures that contain great encouragement. These Scriptures are a treasure house of precious pearls, and all need them. **How much time** is spent by intelligent human beings in horse racing, cricket matches, and ball playing! But will indulgence in these sports give men a **desire to know truth and righteousness?** Will it keep **God in their thoughts?** Will it lead them to inquire, **How is it with my soul?**

GENERAL QUOTES

RH 06-13-07

....." **Satan has devised a multitude of ways** in which to keep men from serving God. **He has invented sports and games**, into which men enter with such intensity that one would suppose a crown of life was to reward the winner. At the horse races and football matches, which are attended by thousands and thousands of people, **lives for which Christ shed his blood are thrown away**. What will become of the souls of the men and boys whose lives are thus extinguished? Will they be **counted worthy of the redemption** which Christ died to secure for them?

GENERAL QUOTES

1SM 131-133

When the students at the school went into their match games and football playing, when they became absorbed in the amusement question, **Satan saw it a good time to step in** and make of **none effect the Holy Spirit of God** in molding and using the human subject. Have not the playing of games, and rewards, and the using of the boxing glove been educating and **training after Satan's direction to lead to the possession of his attributes?** What if they could see Jesus, the Man of Calvary **looking upon them in sorrow**, as was represented to me.

GENERAL QUOTES

13MR 45

Parents and children should be striving together to bring forth **fruit in accordance with their knowledge of truth**, but instead of this there is seen on every hand a strife for advantage. Each **seeks to excel in some line of display or indulgence**. On the school grounds games are instituted that arouse **the spirit of emulation**. The youth are absorbed in a **strife for the mastery**, and to gain their ends will often **imperil life itself**.

GENERAL QUOTES

8T 52

I was told by my Guide: "Look ye, and **behold the idolatry of My people**, to whom I have been speaking, rising up early, and presenting to them their dangers. I looked that they should bring forth fruit." There were some who **were striving for the mastery**, each trying to **excel the other** in the swift running of their bicycles. There was a **spirit of strife and contention among them as to which should be the greatest**. The spirit was similar to that manifested in the baseball games on the college ground. Said my Guide: "These things **are an offense to God**. Both near and afar off souls are perishing for the bread of life and the water of salvation." **When Satan is defeated in one line**, he will be all ready with other schemes and plans which will **appear attractive and needful**, and which will **absorb money and thought**, and **encourage selfishness**, so that he can overcome those who are so easily led into a **false and selfish indulgence**.

GENERAL QUOTES

4BIO 446-447

I do not condemn the simple exercise of playing ball; but this, even in its simplicity, **may be overdone**. I shrink always from the almost sure result which follows in the wake of these amusements. It leads to **an outlay of means** that should be expended in bringing the light of truth to souls that are perishing out of Christ. The amusements and expenditures of **means for self-pleasing**, which lead on step by step to **self-glorifying**, and the education in these games for pleasure produces a **love and passion for such things that are not favorable to the perfection of Christian character.**

GENERAL QUOTES

RH 03-06-94

The panic of desire is so contagious that even church-members, professed Christians, are **carried away with the excitement and give countenance to the races by presenting themselves as spectators**. If they do not bet on the races, **they are still one with the transactors in spirit**, and their **doings are registered and condemned in the courts of heaven**. They are **reckoned among the godless company**, and must give an account to God for their **wasted time and money**.

GENERAL QUOTES

6BC 1089

This glorious contest is before us. The apostle **seeks to inspire us to enter into a noble emulation**, a competition in which will be seen **no selfishness, unfairness, or underhanded work**. We are to use every spiritual nerve and muscle in the contest for the crown of life. No one who does his best will fail in this contest.

GENERAL QUOTES

CH 189

Exercise in a gymnasium, however well conducted, cannot supply the place of recreation in the open air, and for this our schools should offer better opportunity. **Vigorous exercise the pupils must have.** Few evils are more to be dreaded than indolence and aimlessness. **Yet the tendency of most athletic sports is a subject of anxious thought to those who have at heart the well-being of the youth.** Teachers are troubled as they consider the influence of these sports both on the student's progress in school and on his success in afterlife. The games that occupy so much of his time are diverting the mind from study. They are not helping to **prepare the youth for practical, earnest work in life.** Their influence **does not tend toward refinement, generosity, or real manliness.**



**IDEAL
EXERCISE**

IDEAL EXERCISE

CT 312

Let the students who are **engaged in building do their tasks with thoroughness**, and let them learn from these tasks lessons that will help in their character building. In order to have perfect characters, they must make their work as perfect as possible. Into every line of labor let there be brought that stability which means true economy. **If in our schools the land were more faithfully cultivated, the buildings more disinterestedly cared for by the students, the love of sports and amusements, which causes so much perplexity in our schoolwork, would pass away**

IDEAL EXERCISE

11MR 160-161

The Healdsburg College has been presented to me as being **demoralized by disgraceful games**. Games have been allowed such as God disapproves. It was to **prevent this kind of thing that the Lord gave counsel to the effect that students should learn useful trades. .**

Where were these watchmen when these unseemly games and athletic sports, **these trials of animal strength and exhibition of physical skill were in progress?** Students could have had this class of education at home. . . . But **do not substitute play, pugilistic boxing, football, matched games, and animal exercises, for manual training.** All of this stripe and type should be vigilantly prohibited from the school grounds

IDEAL EXERCISE

MS 73, 1912

In the place of providing diversions that merely amuse, **arrangements should be made for exercises that will be productive of good.** **Satan would lead the students**, who are sent to our schools to receive an education that will enable them to go forth as workers in God's cause, **to believe that amusements are necessary to physical health.** **But the Lord has declared** that the better way is for them to **get physical exercise through manual training, and by letting useful employment take the place of selfish pleasure.** The desire for amusement, if indulged, soon **develops a dislike for useful, healthful exercise of body and mind**, such as will make students efficient in helping themselves and others.

IDEAL EXERCISE

CG 352

Every day there is housework to be done--cooking, washing dishes, sweeping, and dusting. Mothers, have you taught your daughters to do these daily duties? . . . **Their muscles need exercise. In the place of getting exercise by jumping and playing ball or croquet, let their exercise be to some purpose.**

IDEAL EXERCISE

CT 274

The public feeling is that manual labor is degrading, yet men may exert themselves as much as they choose at cricket, baseball, or in pugilistic contests, without being regarded as degraded. **Satan is delighted** when he sees human beings using their physical and mental powers in **that which does not educate, which is not useful, which does not help them to be a blessing to those who need their help**. While the youth are becoming expert in games that are of **no real value to themselves or to others**, Satan is playing the game of life for their souls, **taking from them the talents that God has given them**, and placing in their stead **his own evil attributes**. It is his effort to **lead men to ignore God**. He seeks to engross and absorb the mind so completely that **God will find no place in the thoughts**. He does not wish people to have a knowledge of their Maker, and he is well pleased if he can set in operation games and theatrical performances that **will so confuse the senses of the youth that God and heaven will be forgotten**.

IDEAL EXERCISE

MS 92, 1900

They said they were perplexed to know what to do with the students' Sunday afternoons. They thought they could unite with them in these games and they would not be strolling around in the bush. I said, "**Is there not an abundance of work to be done on this farm where all the energy and tact would be turned to the most useful account in a good work?**" . . . All are to be rightly educated as in the schools of the prophets. . . . Let another teacher . . . **educate how to do work in helping some of the worthy poor about us. There are houses that can be built.** Get your students under a man who is a builder and see if you cannot find something that can be done in the lines of education and in the lines of holiness.--.

IDEAL EXERCISE

FE 229

I cannot find an instance in the life of Christ where He devoted time to play and amusement. He was the great Educator for the present and the future life. I have **not been able to find one instance where He educated His disciples to engage in amusement of football or pugilistic games, to obtain physical exercise, or in theatrical performances;** and yet Christ was our pattern in all things. Christ, the world's Redeemer, gave to every man his work and bids them "occupy till I come."

JUST FOR YOUR INFORMATION

3SM 258

Every working of Christ in miracles was essential, and was to reveal to the world that there was a great work to be done on the Sabbath day for the relief of suffering humanity, but the common work was not to be done.

Pleasure seeking, ball playing, swimming, was not a necessity, but a sinful neglect of the sacred day sanctified by Jehovah.

FINAL QUOTE

TM 85

Satan has been multiplying his snares in Battle Creek ; and professed **Christians who are superficial in character and religious experience are used by the tempter as his decoys. This class are always ready for the gatherings for pleasure or sport, and their influence attracts others.** Young men and young women who have tried to be Bible Christians are **persuaded to join the party, and they are drawn into the ring.** They did not **prayerfully consult the divine standard**, to learn what Christ had said in regard to the fruit to be borne on the Christian tree. They do **not discern that these entertainments are really Satan's banquet**, prepared to keep **souls from accepting the call to the marriage supper of the Lamb**; they **prevent them from receiving the white robe of character**, which is the righteousness of Christ. They **become confused as to what it is right for them as Christians to do.** They do not want to be thought singular, and naturally incline to follow the example of others. Thus they come under the influence of those **who have never had the divine touch on heart or mind.**



7 V's

These represent the core problems with sports

7 V's

Vengeance
Promotion

Violence
Glorification

Venial
Attitude

Vacuum
Usurpation

Victor
Adoration

Vanity
Formation

Value
Transmutation



7 V's

- (a) Vengeance Promotion: a basically selfish, "pay-back" attitude is fostered;
- (b) Violence Glorification: a violent, aggressive spirit is encouraged;
- (c) Venial Attitude: uncontrolled reactions are portrayed as normal and hence easily forgiven;
- (d) Vacuum Usurpation: an empty soul finds a pseudo-fulfillment in sports;
- (e) Victor Adoration: sports stars hold a godlike status, hero-worship abounds;
- (f) Vanity Formation: the "successful," easily become self-centered and proud;
- (g) Value Transmutation: biblical norms, such as love and truthfulness, are ignored, while "hatred" (of the opponent) and "deception" (of the rival), are promoted as actions that are positive and "good" virtues.