

LIVING THE STORY

- Worship**
- Actions**
- Attitudes**

ATHLETICS AND WORSHIP

"Worship is not a gathering. It is not essentially a song service or sitting under preaching. Worship is not essentially any form of outward act. Worship is essentially an inner stirring of the heart to treasure God above all the treasures of the world"

John Piper, in Let the Nations be Glad

"The supreme fullness of any individual's purpose is to be totally absorbed in the person of God, and to view all of life through eyes that are filled with the wonder and glory of God's attributes. That is the perspective of the true worshiper."

"Worship is deliberate, purposeful, and active. It involves not just the thought process, but the whole being as well. The life of a true worshiper is a joyous, vibrant life - a life of activity seeing to glorify God in practical ways."

John MacArthur, "The Ultimate Priority"

"Of course I want to win and play well, but no matter the result, I want to look back at the performance knowing I've honored the Lord."

Maya Moore

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

Col. 3:23-24

1 Peter 3: 13:17 – How to Walk the Talk

Verse

Principle for Us

13 Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?

Be a model citizen, model guest, ideal traveler and representative of NRB.

14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed.

We have a blessing, even in hard times.

Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.

Do not fear what others say.

15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.

Give reverence to Christ.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

Know why you believe.
Be able to share your story.

But do this with gentleness and respect,

Treat all people with respect.

16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

Stay pure. Live so that your conscience knows no wrong.

17 For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

Nothing happens that is outside of God's plan.

How else can we walk the talk

- *on tour?*
- *back home?*

REFLECTING CHRIST

Roadblocks

What we think we need vs. what we really need.
Selective listening / Filters.
First thing first: Take care of my needs, then I'll listen.

Scratch where they itch.

Find what concerns them.
Address that, then they'll listen.
From a scratch to backrub: it snowballs.

Shine the light

- 1) On the court: teammates, opponents, refs.
- 2) Off the court: be super servants.

Be on the offensive:

- 1) Kingdom eyes: look for opportunities.
- 2) Kingdom heart. Ministry will not come to you, you must go to it.
- 3) Kingdom hands. Be ready to stretch yourself.

PRAYER <--> CARE <--> SHARE

**“Hard work in the camp, good play on the court.
You’ve earned the right to be heard. Now take the opportunity.”**

LIFESTYLE EVANGELISM

"Evangelism is expressing what I possess in Christ and explaining how I came to possess it. In the truest sense, evangelism is displaying the universals of God's character--His love, His righteousness, His justice, and His faithfulness--through the particulars of my everyday life.

Therefore evangelism is not a “special” activity to be undertaken at a prescribed time. It is the constant and spontaneous outflow of our individual and corporate experience of Christ. Even more specifically, evangelism is what Christ does through the activity of His children as they are involved in proclamation, fellowship and service.”

Joseph C. Aldrich, Life-Style Evangelism, p. 29

A Basketball Player's View of 1 Corinthians 13

If I could score 30 points in bringing my team to victory, but did not have LOVE for each player, fan, or coach, I would rather sit the bench, Lord.

And if I could pass to my teammate who's free under the boards, but did not have LOVE, it would mean nothing, Lord.

And if I practiced hard every day and played team ball, but did not have LOVE, my time would be wasted, LORD.

LOVE is patient when you've been open the whole first half but haven't gotten the ball.

LOVE is kind and gracious when others tell you what you're doing wrong.

LOVE isn't jealous when a teammate is getting more attention than you.

LOVE is not proud when you finally beat out another for a starting spot.

LOVE means not being provoked to foul even though he's elbowed you every time down the court.

My "new injury," tomorrow's game, and today's fame will come to an end, but LOVE is everlasting. Today's pregame tension and excitement will come to an end, but LOVE is eternal. Championship games come to an end, but LOVE never ends. Before I sought your LOVE I thought only of myself but now I am conscious of my family, my friends, my teammates and all others.

These three things I have learned, Lord: patience, understanding and LOVE; but the greatest of these is LOVE.





“Kids need relationships AND they need clear gospel presentations – its not either/or.”

Ginny Olson, Youth Ministry Consultant



“Love -- and the unity it attests to -- is the mark Christ gave Christians to wear before the world. Only with this mark may the world know that Christians are indeed Christians and that Jesus was sent by the Father.”

Francis A. Schaeffer, *The Mark of the Christian*



How we say things sometimes has greater influence than what we say:

“I can't hear a word you are saying, because your actions are speaking so loudly.”

Glen Schultz, *Kingdom Education*



WHY WE COMPETE

“As competitors, we all want to be great and to win. I can't think of a single person out there who likes to lose. But what is true greatness? Why do we play sports at all? If we truly understand who God is and why He gave us athletic ability, we would know that it's about more than just the numbers—it's about His Kingdom.

God gave us the ability to compete for multiple reasons:

1. to connect with us and teach us more about His love and character,
2. to develop that same character inside us,
3. to reach others with His love,
4. to stand in front of a public audience and reveal Him to those who are watching.

Keeping those Kingdom-minded reasons at the front of our minds while we compete will help us fulfill our God-given purpose in sports. It's not about us; it's about Him. And when we live that way, He will touch our hearts and the hearts of so many others.”

Jill Ewert Lee, FCA

LIVE THE STORY



1. LIVE IN UNITY - Why Unity is so important:

Jesus said in John 17:23 that we are “perfected in unity!”

We will never grow spiritually nor be blessed if we were not able to set aside our difference for the Lord’s glory and the Great Commission. That’s why He prayed 3 times for us to be unified in John 17:11, 21-23.

One Body, One Team, One Purpose, All United:

5 Practical Biblical ways to obtain Team and Camp Unity.

1. Philippians 2:1-5.

Humbly looking out for the interests of others on the tour – on or off the court.

2. Philippians 2:14-15

Do ALL things without grumbling or disputing – which is our witness as “lights” in the world! Our testimonies are rendered useless when others see/hear us being contentious.

3. Ephesians 4:31, Galations 5:26

Replace the negative talk with love, edification grace and forgiveness.

4. Matthew 18:15-16

Hold everyone accountable – daily! Review our core values – daily!

5. Matthew 6:14-15

Forgive!!!



2. LIVE AS FAMILY

Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and soul. . .

And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was on all of them.

(Acts 4:32-33).

“What precedes and follows Luke’s comments about the “power” and “grace” that marked the Jerusalem church—in a word, the church as a family. -- And the early Christians turned the world upside down. When the church was a family, the church was on fire. May God help us recapture Jesus’ vision for authentic Christian community in our work today.” Joe Hellerman, *When the Church Was a Family*

“My heartbeat is for the church to be and act like a family, and to have more of an integrated vision as a family. This will help us to glorify God both where we are and also in our outreach ministries, even to the ends of the earth.”

Kevin Cain, World Vision



3. LIVE IN PEACE -

There are times we will have disagreements. How do we manage our conflicts?

- **Player Issues** –
What are some of the issues you may deal with as a member of this team?
Who do you go to for help in these issues?
- **Accountability** –
Done in love and the right way. The purpose of accountability is correction, not disgrace. Take responsibility.
- **Conflict Resolution** –
How do you resolve disagreements? Is there a process in place?
- **Miscommunication** –
Most conflicts are a result of miscommunication. What steps do you take to ensure all instructions, feelings, ideas are communicated well and are understood?
- **Manage Expectations** –
One expects one thing, another expects something else. How can you manage expectations?

“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”
Romans 12:18



4. LIVE IN LOVE -

Confess to one another (James 5:16)

Bear one another’s burdens (Gal. 6:2)

Be kind to one another (Eph 4:32)

Hospitality to one another (1 Pt 4:9)

Comfort one another (1 Thes 4:18)

Forgive one another (Col. 3:13)

Teach one another (Col. 3:16)

Love one another (1 Peter 1:22, 1 John 4:7)

Build up one another (1 Thes. 5:11)

Pray for one another (James 5:16)

Submit to one another (Eph 5:21)

Serve one another (Gal. 5:13)

Restore one another (Gal. 6:1)

Admonish one another (Rom 15:14)

Encourage one another (Heb. 3:13)

“True fellowship takes place when Christians come together to minister to one another in the power of the Holy Spirit”

Fire Up

Why We Do What We Do

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

"The most important [commandment]," answered Jesus, "is this; 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. **Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.**' The second is this: '**Love your neighbor as yourself.**' There is no commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:29-31

THE GREAT COMMISSION

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

OUR GREATEST TASK

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

II Corinthians 5:18-20

It Matters. . .

"Because of God's mercy, we have a God-given significance and purpose in this world that calls us to action. We matter, and what we do matters. We are called to active duty. We are called to be on mission. It matters that we trust and follow Jesus. It matters that we take risks to rescue and restore others. It matters that we offer our whole selves, head, heart, and hands, to God and His mission in the world. God's mercy connects us to God, our true humanity is restored, and we are commissioned to extend God's mercy to others. What could be more exciting than that?"

The Divine Expedition: Where are you in the Book of Romans by Linus Morris

"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."

Nelson Mandela

"Every day God invites us on the same kind of adventure. It's not a trip where He sends us a rigid itinerary, He simply invites us. God asks what it is He's made us to love, what it is that captures our attention, what feeds that deep indescribable need of our souls to experience the richness of the world He made. And then, leaning over us, He whispers, "Let's go do that together."

-Bob Goff

PASSION

“ If you believe something, passionately, people will follow you. People hardly care what you believe, as long as you believe something. If you are passionate about something, people will follow you because they think you know something they don't, some clue to the meaning of the universe.”

Donald Miller, in *Blue Like Jazz*

**“This is not optional –
My faith demands that I do
whatever I can,
wherever I am,
whenever I can,
for as long as I can,
with whatever I have
to try to make a difference.”**
Former President Jimmy Carter

**“It is so important to view every day--
sunup to sundown--from the spiritual
dimension. When we do, nothing is
accidental, coincidental, meaningless,
or superficial. Things that happen to
us are under our Lord's supervision
because we are His, and we are to
glorify Him, regardless.”**

Charles Swindoll

A PRAYER FOR OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER. . .

May God bless you with a restless discomfort - about easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships,- so that you may seek truth boldly and love deep within your heart.

May God bless you with holy anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.

May God bless you with the gift of tears to shed with those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you really can make a difference in this world, so that you are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.

Amen.

Benediction from the Maryknoll Book of Prayer