

Overcoming Racism & Hate Through Sports



Does racism exist? Does hate exist? Absolutely! But, are they ever right? Of course they're not! All men and women are created by God in His image and thus are endowed with God's likeness in various ways and are worthy of being treated with honor and respect. In other words, each person has inherent dignity and worth because they're covered with God's finger prints.

One time, the Apostle Paul was talking with some philosophers at a meeting place called the Areopagus in Athens (Modern Greece) and told them:

...as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.

Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you. "The God Who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth... And He is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything, because He Himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man He made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.

God did this so that men would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us. 'For in Him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are His offspring.' Acts 17:23-28

In this you can see that God is in control of everything concerning men & women. He gives everyone life, breath and everything else; we're all linked to a common ancestor - Adam; He determines when and where we are born and live; and He keeps each one of us alive moment to moment. This control, provision, and love are not confined to any race of men.

As those bearing His image, God wants us to treat our fellow men the same way He treats all of us. God's ethic and desire for this good treatment of others is described well by Jesus' teaching in Luke:

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:27 - 31

Surprisingly, in Jesus' words above are some great lessons in teamwork. Hopefully, teammates aren't enemies, don't hate each other, curse each other, or mistreat each other by hitting or stealing; but the selflessness and love used to respond to and overcome such bad treatment by others would make the person who gives such selfless love the best kind of teammate one could possibly be! Teammates who are giving, not demanding, thinking about how their words and actions make others feel, doing good, and lending opportunities and glory with no expectation of return would be loved by all because of these actions and attitudes of love. How much better if everyone on the team were that way!

These positive attitudes and actions are also the best things for overcoming racism. To the degree athletes learn and live this Christian *love your enemies* ethic through good coaching and having experience playing on a team, sports provide one of the greatest avenues toward overcoming racism and hate. The greater number of selfless loving players a team has, the more successful that team usually is because they are more concerned about each other than they are about themselves or who gets credit for what and thus they play better as a team. By playing soccer this season, your kids are learning a lot more than what meets the eye!

...love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Luke 6:35-36

SUMMER HAPPENINGS

Youth and Children's Ministry
Summer Schedule will be released soon!

Summer Sports Camp
**** Register NOW**
June 14 - June 18, 2009
Ages 6 - 12
Soccer, Basketball, Cheer
9:00am - 12:15pm
Soccer, Baseball, Volleyball
5:30pm - 8:45pm

Youth Baseball / Softball
Registration on June 19th
June 19 - August 21, 2010
Ages 5 - 16, evenings

Vacation Bible School
July 25 - July 29, 2010
Ages 3 - 5th grade
Mark your calendars!

Adult Sports
16 yrs - 99 years

Men's Basketball Open Gym
Saturdays 2:00 - 4:00pm

Soccer Finale
June 4th & 5th
Mark your calendars!!!



June 14th – 18th

BOYS AND GIRLS

Ages 6 - 12

Soccer	(ages 6 - 12)
Cheerleading	(ages 6 - 12)
Basketball	(ages 7 - 12)
Volleyball	(ages 9 - 12)
Baseball	(ages 7 - 11)

FEATURING:

Christian Coaches
Quality Sports Instruction
Positive Role Models
Daily Bible Times

Register: Call the Church Office at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at www.fpcstanley.org

Look for the registration table at the Soccer Finale!

Cost: \$80 per child

Morning Camp: Basketball, Soccer, Cheer 9:00am - 12:15pm

Evening Camp: Soccer, Volleyball, Baseball 5:30pm - 8:45pm

Soccer News

Soccer Finale

Make plans now to be here for your child's Finale. Because of the volume of players, each division will have their own finale beginning on Friday night, June 4th.

Div III Friday, June 4th 7:00 - 8:30pm
Romania, Japan, USA, New Zealand

Div I Saturday, June 5th 9:00 - 10:30am
Germany, Belize, Peru, Chile, Brazil, Sudan

Div II Saturday, June 5th 11:00 - 12:30pm
India, Bulgaria, Mexico, Taiwan, Philippines, and Ukraine



Keynote Speaker
Trophies
Team Verses
Ice Cream



Photos courtesy of Bill Ward



Deuteronomy 31:8

The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.



Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

Morning Service

8:30 Worship Service

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship Service

Sunday Evening

Beginning in June

6:30 Family Worship

On the first Sunday night each month, we'll have a family meal at 6pm & worship at 7pm

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at

www.fpcstanley.org

Team Rosters
Game Schedule
Parent's Corner

Get Plugged In

The Spring / Summer Adult Sunday School curriculum offers a wide variety of small group studies:

- The Book of Mark - "fast paced gospel written for the common man"
- Psalms & Proverbs for Everyday Life - "practical application"
- Christian Truths - "discover how to understand today's conflicting stories and ideas about truth"
- Genesis - "... it's much more than history"
- Great Texts of Isaiah - "prophecy of Christ"
- Acts - "inform and energize our lives in Christ's church"
- The Life of Jesus & Miracles of Jesus
- Elements of the Christian Life - "current life issues"



Summer Activities
for Children

Beginning in June, there will be special activities at the church and fieldtrips scheduled for nearly every week through mid-August.