

CHRIST ON THE GROUND



Kingdom Baseball

Juanjo Castillo
Director / Spiritual
Development Christ the King

Baseball With much love for
my children in faith.

INTRODUCTION: For our civilization, the birth of sport was a form of expression and exchange of concepts as it evolved in the emerging society; that is why it gradually took a turn and importance at the end of the different periods of history. This sports and religious fragment is intended to provide a good application for daily life very important for

Christian athletes, especially baseball players of this generation as they are the most at risk of marketing their lives in and out of the game. In our study we must highlight some situations and warnings about the way of seeing sport in our context, making mention not only of baseball players but also other sports figures.

The god of sports

"For bodily exercise is profitable for little, but piety is profitable for everything, for it has promise of this present life, and the life to come." —1 Timothy 4.8

The twenty-first century has a very popular god. The world goes crazy serving this god. And many people who call themselves "Christians" also pay attention to it. As a baseball manager, am I trying to say that sport is bad? No way.

But I mean those who have made a sports god. Since through sport many men and women have achieved the greatest wealth, such as the case of: Alex Rodriguez, Tiger Woods, Mike Tyson, Michael Jordan, among others. Am I saying that money is bad? No way. On the contrary it is good everything depends on the use that we can give it, the money in our lives can serve as a blessing as well as a curse, everything depends on

the use that we give to things, fame, money, etc.

"But," you say to me, "what's wrong with sports?" nothing bad but let's see some things that the bible can teach us indirectly, for a better life as athletes.

Although the Bible does not say much about sport as such, it does leave us some teachings that direct us in that regard. As always, Jesus leaves a mark for us to follow.

To begin, where in the Bible do we read that Jesus had

practiced any sport while he was young or old? In no biblical chapter. But what mark did he leave us? For example, when he was barely twelve years old, we see how he was already dedicated to the things of God. Please read Luke 2.41–52 and you will be impressed by the seriousness and deep joy that Jesus had in his life as he entered youth. So we not only read that Jesus did not practice any sport in his youth, but if Jesus teaches us that every young person

should be dedicated to the things of God more than to anything, that the true fame is to exalt the God and father who created in his image and likeness right?

Here are some of the teachings of the Bible that can help us understand what Jesus' footprint is regarding sports:

1. The teaching of bad companionship: “Do not err; bad conversations corrupt good habits ”(1 Corinthians 15.33).

Hanging out with the world in sports is a quick way to corrupt yourself. We must decide to do what the psalmist did: "I hated the meeting of the wicked, and with the wicked I never sat" (Psalm 26.5). The young Christian athlete avoids bad companionship. Hundreds of cases we have seen in our country Dominican Republic where boys have lost their lives using prohibited substances being advised by a bad companionship and we

would lack time to mention how many frauds and problems have happened over time in the sports atmosphere in our nation and the whole world.

2. The teaching of seriousness: The Bible tells us that we must be sober: “But the end of all things is near; therefore be sober and watch in prayer ”(1 Peter 4.7).

The word sober means "serious, moderate". Can you imagine a serious person, who is waiting for the coming of

Christ, involved in all kinds of worldly games? Games How: lotteries, gambling, any game of chance, not me! The Christian must be a sober person. Thus the athlete must have sanity, seriousness, education, temperance when speaking and when acting.

3. The teaching of the good use of time: The time that God gives us is precious. We must use it for good. "Walk wisely toward those outside, redeeming time" (Colossians 4.5). What does "redeeming

time" mean? This phrase talks about buying it, estimating it, knowing that time is something expensive and valuable. Therefore, the Christian does not waste it as always, I try to teach the children of Christ the King Baseball that the only thing we do not recover in life is time. Perhaps you can comply with this verse having a good time playing or entertaining yourself with a sport? We must give priority to what we dream to build what we

dream of being, I have had many young people with enormous talent but when they fall into video games and other entertainments that talent is bottled up and I cannot see in them that performance that it is supposed to have.

4. Teaching you how to use money well: Sports make you spend a lot of money. How much money is spent buying balls, bats, or gloves? Sometimes when we travel outside to cities like Santiago,

Santo Domingo, La Vega, etc., the effort that people make to make everything go well, you imagine that we waste all those sacrifices of people who have given up their money to help us. Will that please God? Nooo! The Apostle Paul through this verse tells us to be as God's stewards and not to want dishonest gain either. Titus 1: 7 Because it is necessary to be blameless, as God's administrator; not haughty, not angry, not given

to wine, not quarrelsome, not greedy for dishonest profit.

It teaches us that we cannot spend money on unnecessary things. Let's take care of that.

The teaching of purity and modesty: When in sports men play together with women, there is always the tendency of physical friction and in some sports a little nudity. In most games it is impossible to play freely without displaying some parts of the body and temptations come. "Likewise,

women should dress in decent [decent] clothing, with modesty and modesty" (1 Timothy 2.9). I know that the Apostle here is speaking to women but I want to use this verse in an application way for all young people regardless of their male or female sex, the young Christian or non-Christian athlete should dress exemplary.

6. Teaching to leave children's things: It is very good for children to play. They need to play to develop

their bodies. But the apostle Paul gives us sound advice in 1 Corinthians 13.11: “When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I thought as a child, I judged as a child; but when I was a man, I left what was a boy”. To the word "judged" we could very well remove the "z" to say that he played as a child.

When we become adolescent men and women, we must use games and sports with great maturity which will lead us to more important things. I am a testament to that, having lent

character to sport has led me to achieve more important things: for example, through sports I was able to come to the Biblical seminary to study and today I am ON THE GROUND helping young people with their faith. Glory to God !!!

Follow your trail today
When we evaluate the footprint that Christ left us in sports, one thing is very clear: the Christian cannot kneel before the god of sport. You

cannot kneel to the god of this century, call it money.

How can a young Christian kneel before the god of sport?

Believing that his life only depends on sport, stopping studying, using steroids, falsifying documents, among other things, in Christ the King we have learned of some testimonies of young people who clung so much to baseball that they forgot all their commitments as social persons, but Christ He has called him to his kingdom so

that today they will be coaches of young athletes, spiritual guides, mentors etc ... and they will teach them that the Kingdom of heaven is more important than any contract of the major leagues, the mature and judicious Christian must learn that the Sport is a good tool to serve God, what can LeBron James do to be the most famous basketball player in the world and not serve Jesus? How can Mike Trout be the best baseball player in the big

leagues and not bring glory to Jesus? How can it be worth that Floyd Mayweather is the best boxer and not use his achievements to exalt Jesus? It really wouldn't do any good

"Baseball is simply a platform for me to exalt Jesus Christ" —Albert Pujols

Let the children play, and it is good for their parents to play with them at home or wherever it is appropriate. That is playing sports. But as these children reach the age

of understanding their need to become Christians, they should already focus on using play and other children's things to grow as Jesus grew. (see Luke 2.52)

Young Athletes learn that their strength is God.

The boys tire and tire, the youth falter and fall; but those who wait for the Lord will have new strength; They will lift wings like eagles; they will run, and they will not tire;

they will walk, and they will not tire.

Isaiah 40: 30-31

How wonderful it is to see a group of Christians, both young Christians and adult Christians, waiting and working together in the vineyard of the Lord! There are many good things that Christians can do together to advance the Kingdom of God: singing, praying, studying the Bible, evangelizing, working in the community, making sports

teams for children, among many other things. Let us not leave time or energy to sacrifice the god of sport, but rather use sport to walk in our best way to live glorified Jesus Christ ... glory to God!

CONCLUSION:

To conclude with this study we could not conclude it in a better way than by following the best advice that the Apostle Paul gives us:

Do you not know that those who run in the stadium all

really run, but only one takes the prize? Run in such a way that you get it. Everyone who struggles abstains from everything; they, in truth, to receive a corruptible crown, but we, an incorruptible one.

1 Corinthians 9: 24-25

Young athlete do not forget that everyone runs in the stadium in the race to achieve an award, to achieve a crown, but do not run like the world for a corruptible crown, run for the incorruptible crown

that is the salvation in Christ
which once it is obtained and
you will never lose it, because
those of the world obtain their
crowns by merit but salvation
we obtain it by the grace of
God.

God bless you