

THE SPIRIT BEHIND COMPETITIVE SPORTS:

A Simple Bible Study

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Keep you from falling

Ministry

THE SPIRIT BEHIND COMPETITIVE SPORTS:

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(Part one)

BY

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ABOMINATION OF THE WORLD

Luke 16:13-15 (KJV)

No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. ¹⁴ And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him. ¹⁵ And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: **for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.**

Q: What are those things that are highly esteemed among men?

Worldly Fashion, Worldly Educational degrees, Worldly Entertainment, Worldly Wealth, Competitive Sports. Those things that are Highly Valued and Highly praised among men and they occupy our minds, no matter how we view them, are regarded in God's sight as abomination.

Q: What spirit is behind Competitive Sports?

Isaiah 14:12-14 (KJV)

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ¹³ For thou hast said in thine heart, **I will ascend** into heaven, **I will exalt** my throne above the stars of God: **I will sit** also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴ **I will ascend above** the heights of the clouds; **I will be like** the most High.

Q: What kind of spirit did Satan exhibit?

Satan expressed the Spirit of Competition.

He seeks to be greater than God. In achieving this, he COMPETED with God.

Q: What was the result of this Spirit of competition that Satan exhibited?

Rev 12:7-9 (KJV)

And there was **war** in heaven: **Michael** and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, ⁸ And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. ⁹ **And the great**

dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, **which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

Captain Satan and his team (Evil Angels) were cast out of heaven because they wanted to overthrow God's Government. Captain Satan and his team competed with Captain Michael (Jesus Christ), not to be like Him in character, but to usurp His authority. Satan wanted Christ's throne and power. The Spirit of competition filled his heart which led to his casting out from heaven.

THE FALSE god OF THE WORLD

2 Thess. 2:3-4 (KJV)

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that **man of sin** be revealed, the son of perdition; ⁴ Who **opposeth** and **exalteth** himself above all that is called God, or that is **worshipped**; so that he as God **sitteth in the temple of God**, shewing himself that he is God.

Q: Who is the opponent of God from the verse?

*The **man of Sin** or **Papacy** who seeks to exalt himself above God and "all that is called God" or "that is worshipped" as God.*

Q: What are some of the things that are called God and worshipped as God in modern times?

***WORLDLY MUSIC:** American Idol, Nigeria Idol, pornographic music videos e.t.c. They portray nothing but vulgar language, obscenity, idolization of stars, sexually suggestive acts and fornication.*

***MOVIES and MOVIE STARS:** Hollywood, Nollywood, Ghollywood, Bollywood and all the Wood. They portray nothing but sex, murder, witchcraft, lies, deception, fake beauty, nudity and mockery of God.*

***SPORTS:** Especially Football (e.g Maradona, Messi, Ronaldo worship, English Premier League), Olympic Games with their half naked athletes etc.*

Q: What did Jesus say about the Spirit of Competition, opposition, Strife, worldly honor or competition among His followers?

Luke 22:21-27 (KJV)

But, behold, the hand of him that betrayeth me *is* with me on the table. ²² And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed! ²³ And they began to enquire among themselves, which of them it was that should do this thing. ²⁴ **And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.** ²⁵ And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. ²⁶ **But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.** ²⁷ For whether *is* greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? *is* not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.

Matt 20:20-28 (KJV)

Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. ²¹ And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom. ²² But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able. ²³ And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father. ²⁴ And when the ten heard *it*, **they were moved with indignation against the two brethren.** ²⁵ But Jesus called them *unto him*, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise **dominion over them**, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. ²⁶ **But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;** ²⁷ And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: ²⁸ Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Among the disciples was found the spirit of strife, which is the spirit of competition of who to be the greatest in Christ kingdom, But Jesus rebuke them of such satanic spirit.

*Jesus said, "princes of the Gentiles exercise **dominion** over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them." v. 25.*

Q: What is the related word for DOMINION?

To **DOMINATE**.

*In competitive sports, the Spirit of **DOMINATION** and the spirit to make another person to fall is the rule of the Game.*

On the football pitch, on the boxing or wrestling ring, on the basketball court, the spirit of strife, domination, and oppression, the spirit of Satan is displayed while professed Christian cheer them up as spectators.

Q: Have you ever seen a sport man/woman who goes into the field with humility and with the aim to LOSE or to see his opponent WIN?

ALL desire, by all means, to WIN the Crown that perisheth

1 Cor. 9:24-25 (KJV)

Know ye not that **they which run** in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. ²⁵ And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. **Now they do it** to obtain **a corruptible crown**; but we an incorruptible.

From the texts above, "**They which run**" or do competitive sports are not the believers in Corinth but the unbelievers. The crown they receive is corruptible but we run our Christian race to receive an everlasting life without competing with anyone.

THE MIND OF CHRIST

Q: What mind (or Spirit) was in Christ?

Phil 2:1-11 (KJV)

If *there be* therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, ² Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. ³ **Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.** ⁴ Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. ⁵ **Let this mind be in you**, which was also in Christ Jesus. ⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, **he humbled himself** and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ **Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him**, and given him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus

every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; ¹¹ And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Merriam-Webster Dictionary definitions

Vain glory: *Excessive or ostentatious* **PRIDE ESPECIALLY IN ONE'S ACHIEVEMENTS**

Humble: *Not proud. Not thinking of yourself as better than other people.*

Q: Like Jesus, how many sport men, can make themselves of no reputation?

All are concerned about their reputation, this is the reason many of them act fake and go on drugs. All seek to win. Through strife and domination, they seek to make others lose.

“Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.” Gal 5:26 (KJV)

Jesus Principle:

Greatness is achieved only by Humility.

Satan Principle:

Greatness is achieved by Strife, Force, Competition, and Domination and through Sports.

WORKS OF SATAN

Q: Why did Jesus come into this world?

1 John 3:8 (KJV)

He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

Q: What are the works of Satan that Christ came to destroy?

Gal 5:19-21 (KJV)

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary

EMULATION, n.

- The act of attempting to equal or excel in qualities or actions; rivalry; desire of superiority, attended with effort to attain to it; generally in a good sense, or an attempt to equal or excel others in that which is praise-worthy, without the desire of depressing others.
- In a bad sense, a striving to equal or do more than others to obtain carnal favors or honors.
- Contest; contention; strife; competition; rivalry accompanied with a desire of depressing another.

STRIFE, n. [See Strive.]

- Exertion or contention for superiority; contest of emulation, either by intellectual or physical efforts. Strife may be carried on between students or between mechanics.
- Contention in anger or enmity; contest; struggle for victory; quarrel or war.
- Opposition; contrariety; contrast.

The Whole purpose of competitive Sports is about emulation and strife and competition.

James 3:13-18 (KJV)

Who *is* a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if ye have **bitter envying** and **strife** in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom descendeth not from above, but *is* **earthly, sensual, devilish.**

¹⁶ For where **envying** and **strife** *is*, there *is* **confusion** and **every evil work.** ¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

Every evil works is also the works of the flesh

COMPARING TWO STATEMENTS

Rev 17:4-5 (KJV)	Luke 16:13-15 (KJV)
<p>And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:</p> <p>⁵ And upon her forehead <i>was</i> a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.</p>	<p>No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. ¹⁴ And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him. ¹⁵ And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God</p>

It follows from above that Babylon is the mother of all abominations here on earth. In part two we will identify who Babylon is and how the spirit of Babylon playing out in the world of Entertainment. The Spirit of Emulation, Strife, competition and Sports is the Spirit of Babylon.

SPORT DEFINED

Noah Webster 1828 Definition of Sport

SPORT, n.

1. **That which diverts** and makes merry; play; game; diversion; also, mirth. The word signifies both the cause and the effect; that which produces mirth, and the mirth or merriment produced.
2. **Mock;** mockery; contemptuous mirth.
3. That with which one plays, or which is driven about.
4. Play; idle jingle.
5. **Diversion** of the field, as fowling, hunting, fishing.

In sport. To do a thing in sport, is to do it in jest, for play or diversion.

DIVERSION, n. [L., to divert.]

1. The act of turning aside from any course; as the diversion of a stream from its usual channel; the diversion of a purpose to another object; the diversion of the mind from business or study.
2. That which diverts; that which turns or draws the mind from care, business or study, and thus relaxes and amuses; **sport**; play; pastime; whatever unbends the mind; **as the diversion of youth**. Works of wit and humor furnish an agreeable diversion to the studious.
3. In war, the act of drawing the attention and force of an enemy from the point where the principal attack is to be made, as by an attack or alarm on one wing of an army, when the other wing or center is intended for the principal attack. The enemy, if deceived, is thus induced to withdraw a part of his force from the part where his foe intends to make the main impression.

SONS OF BABYLON

Isaiah 57:3-4 (KJV)	Rev 17:5 (KJV)
<p>“But draw near hither, ye sons of the sorceress, the seed of the adulterer and the whore. ⁴ Against whom do ye sport yourselves? against whom make ye a wide mouth, <i>and</i> draw out the tongue? <i>are</i> ye not children of transgression, a seed of falsehood”</p>	<p>“And upon her (Babylon) forehead <i>was</i> a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”</p>
<p>The sons of Babylon are those who sports and draw their tongue in derision or to mock others. They are Children of transgression and seed of falsehood.</p>	

Ellen White, Review and Herald, September 10, 1901 par. 5.

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?

Adventist Home, p. 500, 501.

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.

Q: Who were the first in the Bible to sit in a Stadium to watch sport game as entertainment?

Judges 16:22-27 (KJV)

Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven. ²³ Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand. ²⁴ And when the people saw him, they praised their god: for they said, Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy, and the destroyer of our country, which slew many of us. ²⁵ And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport: and they set him between the pillars. ²⁶ And Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand, Suffer me that I may feel the pillars whereupon the house standeth, that I may lean upon them. ²⁷ Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines *were* there; and *there were* upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport.

*The Hebrew word **Sachaq** OR **tsachaq** translated sport means “to laugh (in pleasure or detraction); to play, deride, laugh, make merry, mock (-er), scorn, make sport. To make jest.*

AVISION GIVEN TO MRS WHITE IN AUSTRALIA

(Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students (1913), p. 348-351)

In April, 1900, a holiday was appointed at the Avondale school for Christian workers. The program for the day provided for a meeting in the chapel in the morning, at which I and others addressed the students, calling their attention to what God had wrought in the building up of this school, and to their privilege and opportunities as students.

After the meeting, the remainder of the day was spent by the students in various **games and sports**, some of which were **frivolous, rude, and grotesque (strange)**. **During the following night** I seemed to be witnessing the performances of the afternoon. The scene was clearly laid out before me, and **I was given a message** for the manager and teachers of the school.

I was shown that in the amusements carried on at the school that afternoon **the enemy gained a victory**, and teachers were weighed in the balances and found wanting. I was greatly distressed and burdened to think that those standing in responsible positions should open the door and, as it were, invite the enemy in; for this they did in permitting the exhibitions that took place. As teachers, they should have stood firm against giving place to the enemy in any such line. . . .

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 (art of imitation)** 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

Hearing a voice, I turned to see who spoke to me. Then with dignity and solemnity **One** said, "Is this the **celebration** for the anniversary of the opening of the school? Is this the gratitude offering you present to God for the blessings He has given you? The world could render as acceptable an offering on this memorial occasion. The teachers are making the same mistake that has been made over and over again. They should learn wisdom from the experiences of the past. **The careless, godless world can offer an abundance of such offerings as these, in a much more acceptable manner.**"

Turning to the teachers, He said, "You have made a mistake the effects of which it will be hard to efface. The Lord God of Israel is not glorified in the school. If at this time the Lord should permit your life to end, many would be lost, eternally separated from God and the righteous."

May the Lord keep us from falling into Satan's deception in this last days. Competitive sports is one way Satan will keep us from being sealed. You may say, "I don't partake in competitive sports I only enjoy watching people partaking in it. I have pleasure when I watch wrestling, boxing, football e.t.c." Paul has this to say to you:

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness . . . Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them." Romans 1:18, 32 (KJV). Make a decision who you want to give your mind to. To the devil or to Christ?

Watch out for PART TWO:

THE SPIRIT BEHIND COMPETITIVE SPORTS

(The Ancient Olympic Games)