

F   **TBALL**

IS

BETTER

THAN

RELIGION

AND HERE'S PROOF

by Trip Reynolds

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INTRODUCTION / KICKOFF

Welcome to **FOOTBALL IS BETTER THAN RELIGION!** Yes, I'm going to prove it! Accordingly, some of you (especially religious fanatics) will not like the facts and tone of this book. Most importantly, the purpose here is not to assail religion, but only to present facts, and then to derive logical, linear conclusions based on these facts. This book is written by the agnostic son of a Methodist minister of 62 years, one of five-(5) generations of ministers dating back to when my ancestors were slaves on the R.J. Reynolds tobacco plantation. Yes, that's where we literally got our "branding."

My younger brother, Rev. Dr. Wayne M. Reynolds, is an active practicing minister for over forty-(40) years, and at this point the last of a generation of ministers in my, in our family. At some point, in direct opposition to this book, Dr. Reynolds will likely detail how organized religion can benefit from many of the tenets and principles of football, and how an individual's faith is the ultimate game changer. Although we're brothers, we clearly view this topic differently, so you'll get considerable bang for your buck by investing your time and money in both perspectives.

To deny the ascendancy of football and other sporting events over religion is, well, ridiculous. Most importantly, this book does not question the existence of God, which is an entirely different subject. More to the point, economic depressions, inflation, and a constantly increasing war-based national debt continue to devalue U.S. currency, nevertheless, the hypocrisy of "In God We Trust" continues on U.S. coinage. God has absolutely nothing to do with the value of or our faith in U.S. currency.

After presenting a bunch of facts that should make your roll your eyes in disbelief or disappointment at the demise of organized religion, you'll be presented with linear conclusions and corresponding outcomes. Keep the following sobering reality in mind, in the absence of any changes to the facts, *the projected fact-based outcomes are inevitable*, which is basic math and not a question of faith. One and one equal two. Get it?

Fact: More people watch football on a Sunday morning than attend church. In fact, more people, especially men and an increasing number of women, prefer watching a college or professional football game than spending quality time with a spouse, children, or even going to work. Arguably, the only institution in America that has the iconic ability to rival college and professional football is . . . our American obsession with food and obesity, *that's right* food and obesity!

As validated by the Center for Disease Control, three-fourths of all U.S. citizens are morbidly overweight or obese, and the increase in rates of obesity outpaced the combined growth of college and professional football. Think about the aforementioned whenever you chug a super-sized hot dog, hamburger, or Coke down your throat while watching the game at home or at the stadium.

Did football launch the moral decay of society? Of course, not. So, surely there must be something "we" can do about this, to "**Make religion great again!**" right? Is religion dead? Consider the following hypothetical conversation between a football fan and a Christian.

INT. RESIDENCE OF JOHN Q. PUBLIC AND HIS WIFE JANE. LIVING ROOM, JANE IS SITTING ON THE COUCH WATCHING THE NFL PRE-GAME SHOW.

JOHN WALKS INTO THE LIVING ROOM.

JOHN (THE CHRISTIAN):

JANE, IT'S SUNDAY MORNING AND CHURCH STARTS IN ABOUT AN HOUR. YOU SAID YOU'D GO WITH ME TODAY.

JANE (THE FOOTBALL FAN):

(RELUCTANTLY) OH, YEAH, I DID SAY THAT; HEY, BUT DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOUR CHURCH WAS CLOSING DUE TO ITS FALLING MEMBERSHIP. COME ON HONEY, IT'S THE CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP TODAY, AND YOU KNOW, IT'S GONNA BE...

JOHN:

(ARGUMENTATIVELY) IT'S ALWAYS SOMETHING, JANE. THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID LAST WEEK. WHAT IS IT WITH YOU? WHAT'S WRONG WITH ACKNOWLEDGING YOUR FAITH AT A SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE? DON'T YOU BELIEVE IN GOD?

JANE:

(CONDESCENDING) WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM? I DON'T NEED TO GO TO CHURCH TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY BELIEF IN GOD, WHICH REMAINS A PERSONAL THING BETWEEN ME AND GOD. I HAVE NO DESIRE TO ASSOCIATE WITH A BUNCH OF HYPOCRITES WHO STILL TREAT ME LIKE CRAP BECAUSE I'M LATINA AND YOU'RE WHITE, AND THEY CLEARLY WANT ME ON THE OTHER SAID OF THE WALL THEY WANT MEXICO TO BUILD AND PAY FOR. BE A MAN FOR A CHANGE AND WATCH THE GAME WITH ME. YOU'RE NOT GONNA MISS ANYTHING IF YOU DON'T GO TO CHURCH. IT'S THE SAME OLE FIRE AND BRIMSTONE, HEAVEN VS. HELL, YADA, YADA, YADA . . .

JOHN:

(DEFIANTLY) AND THE SAME CAN BE SAID FOR FOOTBALL. IT'S THE SAME OLE, "THAT'S THE GREATEST CATCH IN THE HISTORY OF THE GAME," OR "WE WORKED TOGETHER AS TEAMMATES," OR "I HAD TO MAN-UP AND WORK PAST THE INJURY," YADA, YADA, YADA . . . AND THEN THE WINNING TEAMS SAY, "WE WANNA THANK GOD FOR GIVING US THE STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE TO WIN!" AS USUAL, GOD DIDN'T HEAR THE PRAYERS OF THE LOSING TEAM, WHY? WEREN'T THEY JUST AS "WORTHY" TO WIN?

JANE:

(CONCILIATORY) BUT FOOTBALL HAS INSTANT REPLAY, ON-SITE "LIVE" INTERVIEWS WITH PLAYERS AND COACHES, AND SORRY HONEY, BUT FOOTBALL ALSO HAS GREAT LOOKING MUSCULAR GUYS IN TIGHT UNIFORMS. PLUS, UNLIKE ALL THE CONTRADICTORY RELIGIOUS DOGMA IN THE TORA, BIBLE, AND QURAN, THE RULES OF FOOTBALL ARE CONSISTENT WEEK AFTER WEEK, MONTH AFTER MONTH. DO YOU REALLY WANT TO EXPLAIN TO ME WHY JEWS, CHRISTAINS, AND MUSLIMS CONSTANTLY PICK-AND-CHOSE IF, WHEN, AND HOW THE GOLDEN RULE APPLIES? I'LL STICK WITH FOOTBALL, HONEY. BUT IF YOU REALLY, REALLY, REALLY WANT ME TO GO TO CHURCH, BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, I'LL RECORD THE GAME ON THE VCR, AND I'LL GO TO CHURCH WITH YOU.

JOHN:

THANK YOU, HONEY.

JANE:

AND HONEY, TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION; THE ONLY TEAM TRULY WORTHY OF WINNING IS THE DALLAS COWBOYS. (SMILING) IT'S A MANDATE FROM GOD THAT NO OTHER TEAM IS "WORTHY."

So, let's get to it. Ready, set, hike . . .



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ABRIDGED GLOSSARY AND TERMS

Presented below are fifteen-(15) key football terms used throughout this book adjacent to a religious or theological pseudo-equivalent.

| FOOTBALL GLOSSARY | THEOLOGY GLOSSARY |
|---|---|
| <p>QUARTERBACK (QB) - An offensive player who lines up behind the center, from whom he takes the snap.</p> | <p>THE “QUARTERBACK” IS JESUS CHRIST - a Jewish preacher who has become the central figure of Christianity. Christians believe him to be the Son of God and the awaited Messiah (Christ, the Anointed One) prophesied in the Old Testament.</p> |
| <p>OFFENSIVE TEAM The team with possession of the ball</p> | <p>THE “OFFENSIVE TEAM” ARE DISCIPLES Persons in leadership who zealously promote the word of God, and the teaching of Jesus.</p> <p>Twelve Apostles / Twelve Disciples - the original closest followers of Jesus, and the primary teachers of the gospel message of Jesus.</p> |
| <p>DEFENSIVE TEAM The team that begins a play from scrimmage not in possession of the ball</p> | <p>THE “DEFENSIVE TEAM” ARE DISCIPLES Persons in leadership who zealously defend the word of God, and the teaching of Jesus.</p> <p>Twelve Apostles / Twelve Disciples - the original closest followers of Jesus, and the primary teachers of the gospel message of Jesus.</p> |
| <p>BACKS / TEAM PLAYERS Any position not typically aligned on the line of scrimmage (exception: defensive linemen are off the line in Canadian rules, but are not backs). Offensively: running back, tailback, quarterback, halfback, flankerback, fullback and wingback. defensively: linebacker, cornerback, rover, defensive halfback and safety.</p> | <p>THE “BACKS / TEAM PLAYERS” ARE FOLLOWERS / PARISHIONERS Given that all people are equal in the eyes of God, God’s team includes all people who support (back), promote, and defend the word of God and the teachings of Jesus.</p> <p>Psalm 17:2 (KJV) ² Let my sentence come forth from thy presence; let thine eyes behold the things that are equal.</p> |
| <p>FOUL Any action in violation of established rules of the game, and which result in an immediate penalty.</p> | <p>TO “FOUL” IS TO SIN The act of violating God’s will by transgressing his commandments.</p> |
| <p>ATTEMPT 1. A pass attempt 2. A rush attempt; a carry 3. A kick.</p> | <p>TO “ATTEMPT” IS TO HAVE FAITH Matthew 17:20 (KJV) ²⁰ And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto</p> |

you.

BLITZ

A defensive maneuver in which one or more linebackers or defensive backs, who normally remain behind the line of scrimmage, instead charge into the opponent's backfield. However, in the 3-4 defense, **one linebacker typically rushes the passer with the three down linemen.** This is not considered a blitz. If an additional linebacker is sent, bringing the total number of rushers to five, it is a blitz.

TO "BLITZ" IS TO OVERTHROW

Matthew 21:12 (KJV)

¹² And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves,

BALL CARRIER

The player currently in possession of the football. If the ball is "loose", meaning neither team has possession, there is no ball carrier.

THE "BALL" IS THE WORD OF GOD

John 1:1 (KJV)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

BUSTED PLAY

A play which, due to unforeseen circumstances, deteriorates to the point that it no longer conforms with the coach's playbook and leads to confusion or chaos on the field.

FAILURE TO COMPLY TO THE COACH'S PLAYBOOK ("BUSTED") IS TO BE DISOBEDIENT TO GOD'S WORD

Hebrews 4:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

DELAY OF GAME

A five-yard foul which occurs when the offensive team does not put the ball in play before the play clock runs out. There are also less common occurrences which result in a delay of game foul, such as a defensive player holding an offensive player on the ground to prevent him from lining up during a two-minute drill.

"GOD'S WORD" MUST NOT BE DELAYED

Ecclesiastes 5:4 (NKJV)

⁴ When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For *He has* no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed--

FIELD OF PLAY

The area between both the goal lines and the sidelines, and in some contexts the space vertically above it.

HEAVEN AND HELL

Psalms 139:8 (KJV)

⁸ If I ascend up into heaven, thou *art* there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou *art there*.

HUDDLE

An on-field meeting of team members to communicate instructions for the upcoming play

TO "HUDDLE" IS TO PRAY

Psalms 4:1 (KJV)

¹ Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me *when I was* in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer.

PUMP FAKE

When the quarterback fakes a pass and keeps the ball in their hand in an attempt to fool the defensive team.

TO "FAKE" IS TO BE DECEITFUL

Psalms 36:3 (ASV)

³ The words of his mouth are iniquity and deceit: He hath ceased to be wise *and* to do good.

RUNNING UP THE SCORE

A generally discouraged practice in which a team, despite leading by several touchdowns (to the point that it is obvious that the team is going to win), continues to score as many points as possible in an effort to create as wide of a margin of victory as possible.

“RUNNING UP THE SCORE” IS TO BE EXCESSIVE AND VAIN

Proverbs 13:11 (KJV)

¹¹ Wealth *gotten* by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.

TOUCHDOWN

A play worth six points, accomplished by gaining legal possession of the ball in the opponent's end zone or by the ball crossing the plane of the opponent's goal line with legal possession by a player. It also allows the team a chance for one extra point by kicking the ball or a two-point conversion.

TO “ACHIEVE A TOUCHDOWN” IS TO RECEIVE A REWARD IN HEAVEN

Matthew 5:12 (KJV)

¹² Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

CHAPTER ONE

RELIGIONS DON'T KNOW HOW TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN TALENT

As with any activity that depends on constant human interaction and a vibrant pipeline of new and improved human beings who are bigger and faster, smarter and more agile, in football the business of recruiting is critical to a team's success. Ultimately, recruitment determines not only what team wins individual games, but what teams will win conference and national championships, at the collegiate level and professional football.

High schools coaches and student athletes walk hallways hunting down (scouting) prospective athletes. Former University of Nebraska nose-tackle, Heisman finalist, and current defensive tackle for the Miami Dolphins, six-foot-four-inch (6'4"), 305 pound Ndamukong Suh walked the halls at Grant High School in Portland, where he was a three-sport star in football, basketball, and track. In his rookie year as a professional, Suh signed a \$68 million contract with the Detroit Lions, including \$40 million guaranteed. On March 11, 2015, the Miami Dolphins announced they signed Suh to a six-year, \$114 million contract with \$60 million guaranteed. The contract made Suh the highest-paid defensive player in NFL history. Questions:

1. Who is the iconic religious standout comparable to Ndamukong Suh?

Response: No one.

2. Are pastors, students and others of great religious faith walking high school hallways and college campuses scouting for prospective religious leaders?

Response: No.

3. Does "religion-based recruitment" actually exist?

Response: No.

Oh, but wait, it's folly to confine college football recruitment to athletes, because these "amateur" athletes don't get paid (minus their full ride scholarships for books, room and board, etc.). For NCAA Division I college football teams the greater value is placed on head coaches, and equally important is the value placed on assistant coaches where the annual salary for the top 1,166 college football teams ranges from a low of \$30,000 for Assistant Coach Rick Minter at Georgia State to a high of \$1,558,000 to Assistant Coach John Chavis at Texas A&M. The much "bigger" story is the actual *total* "compensation package" to Minter is \$1,049,750 and \$4,811,000 for Chavis!

Perhaps, for some parishioners and clergy this statistical discussion of compensation is inappropriate, too much to digest. **WAKE UP!!!** Compensation is a leading factor that prompts an overwhelming majority of amateur and professionals to play, coach, and attend football games, and U.S. citizens spend more time attending and watching football *on any given Sunday* than attending church. Yes, there are other activities that command attention away from religion, such as our reliance on technology with smart phones, laptops and such. But these . . . distractions are not competing with

churches, synagogues, and mosques on Saturday and Sunday mornings and afternoons. So, take a look at what “pastoral coaches” are competing against.

2016 NCAAF ASSISTANT COACHES SALARIES

<http://sports.usatoday.com/ncaa/salaries/football/assistant>

| RK | SCHOOL | CONF | COACH | SCHOOL PAY | OTHER PAY | TOTAL PAY | MAX BONUS | ASST PAY TOTAL |
|----|---------------|---------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|----------------|
| 1 | Texas A&M | SEC | John Chavis | \$1,558,000 | -- | \$1,558,000 | \$180,000 | \$4,811,000 |
| 2 | Clemson | ACC | Brent Venables | \$1,431,250 | -- | \$1,431,250 | \$95,000 | \$5,390,417 |
| 3 | Alabama | SEC | Lane Kiffin | \$1,400,000 | -- | \$1,400,000 | \$306,000 | \$5,320,000 |
| 4 | LSU | SEC | Dave Aranda | \$1,315,000 | -- | \$1,315,000 | \$125,000 | \$5,781,500 |
| 5 | Louisville | ACC | Todd Grantham | \$1,300,000 | \$2,000 | \$1,302,000 | \$108,333 | \$3,839,500 |
| 6 | LSU | SEC | Cam Cameron | \$1,200,000 | \$11,000 | \$1,211,000 | \$125,000 | \$5,781,500 |
| 7 | Baylor | Big 12 | Phil Bennett | \$1,199,848 | \$2,250 | \$1,202,098 | -- | -- |
| 8 | Tennessee | SEC | Bob Shoop | \$1,155,000 | \$0 | \$1,155,000 | \$276,000 | \$4,545,700 |
| 9 | Notre Dame | Ind. | Brian VanGorder | \$1,106,156 | \$0 | \$1,106,156 | -- | -- |
| 10 | Auburn | SEC | Kevin Steele | \$1,100,000 | \$0 | \$1,100,000 | \$102,500 | \$4,456,250 |
| 11 | Florida | SEC | Geoff Collins | \$1,051,500 | \$0 | \$1,051,500 | \$236,000 | \$4,530,709 |
| 12 | Alabama | SEC | Jeremy Pruitt | \$1,000,000 | -- | \$1,000,000 | \$220,000 | \$5,320,000 |
| 13 | Texas A&M | SEC | Noel Mazzone | \$965,000 | -- | \$965,000 | \$144,000 | \$4,811,000 |
| 14 | Virginia Tech | ACC | Bud Foster | \$925,000 | \$11,000 | \$936,000 | \$92,500 | \$3,359,000 |
| 15 | Oklahoma | Big 12 | Mike Stoops | \$900,000 | \$5,400 | \$905,400 | \$119,000 | \$4,390,900 |
| 16 | Oklahoma | Big 12 | Lincoln Riley | \$900,000 | \$5,000 | \$905,000 | \$119,000 | \$4,390,900 |
| 17 | Michigan | Big Ten | Don Brown | \$880,000 | -- | \$880,000 | \$141,667 | \$4,308,750 |
| 18 | Georgia | SEC | Jim Chaney | \$850,000 | -- | \$850,000 | \$225,000 | \$4,675,000 |
| 19 | Michigan | Big Ten | Tim Drevno | \$850,000 | -- | \$850,000 | \$133,333 | \$4,308,750 |
| 20 | Texas | Big 12 | Sterlin Gilbert | \$850,000 | \$0 | \$850,000 | \$185,000 | \$4,546,250 |
| 21 | Georgia | SEC | Mel Tucker | \$850,000 | -- | \$850,000 | \$225,000 | \$4,675,000 |
| 22 | Florida State | ACC | Charles Kelly | \$833,000 | -- | \$833,000 | \$146,333 | \$4,586,000 |
| 23 | Arkansas | SEC | Robb Smith | \$825,000 | \$2,000 | \$827,000 | \$266,667 | \$3,893,100 |
| 24 | Texas | Big 12 | Vance Bedford | \$800,000 | \$625 | \$800,625 | \$185,000 | \$4,546,250 |
| 25 | Mississippi | SEC | Dave Wommack | \$800,000 | \$0 | \$800,000 | \$96,000 | \$4,261,700 |

2016 NCAAF HEAD COACH SALARIES

<http://sports.usatoday.com/ncaa/salaries/>

| RK | SCHOOL | CONF | COACH | SCHOOL PAY | OTHER PAY | TOTAL PAY | MAX BONUS |
|----|-------------------|---------|------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 | Michigan | Big Ten | Jim Harbaugh | \$9,004,000 | -- | \$9,004,000 | \$1,325,000 |
| 2 | Alabama | SEC | Nick Saban | \$6,939,395 | -- | \$6,939,395 | \$700,000 |
| 3 | Ohio State | Big Ten | Urban Meyer | \$6,003,000 | \$91,800 | \$6,094,800 | \$775,000 |
| 4 | Oklahoma | Big 12 | Bob Stoops | \$5,550,000 | \$0 | \$5,550,000 | \$834,000 |
| 5 | Florida State | ACC | Jimbo Fisher | \$5,250,000 | -- | \$5,250,000 | \$1,475,000 |
| 6 | Texas | Big 12 | Charlie Strong | \$5,200,000 | \$130 | \$5,200,130 | \$1,006,000 |
| 7 | Texas A&M | SEC | Kevin Sumlin | \$5,000,000 | -- | \$5,000,000 | \$1,350,000 |
| 8 | Auburn | SEC | Gus Malzahn | \$4,725,000 | \$4,500 | \$4,729,500 | \$1,400,000 |
| 9 | Mississippi | SEC | Hugh Freeze | \$4,700,000 | \$3,500 | \$4,703,500 | \$1,225,000 |
| 10 | Penn State | Big Ten | James Franklin | \$4,500,000 | -- | \$4,500,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| 11 | Iowa | Big Ten | Kirk Ferentz | \$4,500,000 | \$0 | \$4,500,000 | \$2,875,000 |
| 12 | Clemson | ACC | Dabo Swinney | \$4,417,500 | \$5,200 | \$4,422,700 | \$1,725,000 |
| 13 | LSU | SEC | Les Miles | \$4,300,000 | \$85,567 | \$4,385,567 | \$700,000 |
| 14 | Michigan State | Big Ten | Mark Dantonio | \$4,300,000 | \$0 | \$4,300,000 | \$650,000 |
| 15 | Florida | SEC | Jim McElwain | \$4,268,325 | \$0 | \$4,268,325 | \$450,000 |
| 16 | Mississippi State | SEC | Dan Mullen | \$4,200,000 | \$0 | \$4,200,000 | \$900,000 |
| 17 | Arkansas | SEC | Bret Bielema | \$4,100,000 | \$45,000 | \$4,145,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| 18 | Tennessee | SEC | Butch Jones | \$4,110,000 | -- | \$4,110,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| 19 | Stanford | Pac-12 | David Shaw | \$4,067,219 | -- | \$4,067,219 | -- |
| 20 | Texas Christian | Big 12 | Gary Patterson | \$4,014,723 | -- | \$4,014,723 | -- |
| 21 | Louisville | ACC | Bobby Petrino | \$3,880,434 | \$30,000 | \$3,910,434 | \$1,464,583 |
| 22 | Oklahoma State | Big 12 | Mike Gundy | \$3,775,000 | -- | \$3,775,000 | \$550,000 |
| 23 | Georgia | SEC | Kirby Smart | \$3,753,600 | -- | \$3,753,600 | \$1,800,000 |
| 24 | Utah | Pac-12 | Kyle Whittingham | \$3,650,000 | -- | \$3,650,000 | \$935,000 |
| 25 | Washington | Pac-12 | Chris Petersen | \$3,600,000 | \$5,847 | \$3,605,847 | \$1,175,000 |

The irony? Coaches on both side of the scrimmage line routinely pray to God to lead them to victory. As routinely as coaches, players, team owners, and fans plea to God for support, do they just as routinely tithe a 10% donation to their local church?

Well? Should religious leaders seize on this hypocrisy and challenge coaches, players, team owners, and fans to support the religious community? **Why not??**

RECRUITMENT FOR RELIGIOUS FAME, FORTUNE, AND ENTERTAINMENT

Prior to his recruitment into professional football, did any religious organizations attempt to recruit Ndamukong Suh to become a pastor, priest, rabbi or an evangelist, or to be a spokesperson for their religious group? If not, why not? Shouldn't a career in the "religious industry" be just as valid as any other industry? True, there's entertainment, fame and fortune in football, but there's also **entertainment** (musicians and pastors Kenneth Copeland, Andrae Crouch, Al Green, Little Richard, Shirley Caesar, Jimmy Swaggart), **fame** (Pope Francis, Billy Graham, Joel Osteen, etc.), and as represented below, there's also considerable **fortune** in religion (Bishop T. D Jakes is worth \$147 Million).

| | WHO | WHAT | WHERE | NET WORTH (Millions) | RACE |
|-----|---------------------------------|--|-----------|-------------------------|-------|
| 1. | Bishop David Oyedepo | Living Faith World Outreach Ministry | Nigeria | \$150 | Black |
| 2. | Bishop T. D Jakes | The Potter's House, Dallas, TX | USA | 147 | Black |
| 3. | Pastor Chris Oyakhilome | Christ Embassy | Nigeria | 50 | Black |
| 4. | Pastor Benny Hinn | Israeli-American televangelist | USA | 42 | White |
| 5. | Enoch Adejare Adeboye | Redeemed Christian Church of God | Nigeria | 39 | Black |
| 6. | Dr. Creflo Dollar | World Changers Church International | USA | 27 | Black |
| 7. | Kenneth Copeland | Kenneth Copeland Ministries | USA | 25 | White |
| 8. | Evangelist Billy Graham | Billy Graham Evangelist Association | USA | 25 | White |
| 9. | Prophet Temitope Balogun Joshua | Synagogue Church of All Nations | Nigeria | 10 | Black |
| 10. | Rev. Joseph Prince | Senior pastor of the New Creation Church | Singapore | 5 | Asian |

Source: Gazette Review, February 27, 2016; <http://gazettereview.com/2016/02/richest-pastors-in-world/>

Without regard to industry, the process of conducting recruitment is largely dependent upon "supply" (how many qualified candidates are located in the marketplace) and "demand" (to what extent is there a need for candidates with the proposed skills, knowledge, and proficiencies). It's really easy to recruit for football players, because: (a) there's an every increasing "demand" for both athletes and

coaches to fill high school, college, and professional football stadiums and in response to increasing demand from broadcast television, cable, and social media audiences, and sponsors; and (2) every year a new crop (supply) of high school, collegiate, and professional athletes enter and exit the football recruitment pipeline.

Conversely, what does the recruitment pipeline for religious champions look like? Is there a demand for religious content, and is there a corresponding supply of religious talent? As published February 4, 2014 by AlbertMohler.com in the article, “The New American Religion: The Rise of Sports and the Decline of the Church,” by Albert Mohler, here’s an overview of how the current religious playing field directly impacts the supply and demand for religious champions:

“While teams and fans are building powerful, cohesive communities—think Red Sox Nation or the legions of University of Alabama faithful who greet one another with ‘Roll Tide’—churches are losing followers. According to a 2012 survey by researchers at the University of California at Berkeley and Duke University, 20 percent of Americans ‘claimed they had no religious preference,’ compared with an unaffiliated population of 8 percent in 1990. Roughly two out of three Americans, a 2012 Pew report noted, are under the impression that religion is losing influence in the country.”

That impression is growing because it is true to the facts. Religion is losing ground and losing influence in American society. The fastest-growing segment of the American public in terms of religious identification is “none,” which designates those who identify with no religious tradition at all. At the same time, a religious dedication to sports has been growing. While correlation does not prove causation, the links between these two developments are haunting.

RELIGIOUS RECRUITMENT VERSUS THE COLLAPSE OF THE CHURCH

Simply put, as with any business that depends primarily on constant human interaction, the pipeline to attract and sustain religious professionals must be constant. In the absence of an effective recruitment and development campaign businesses ultimately fail and cease to exist. It’s impossible to point out the gloomy history of organized religion without also projecting an equally gloomy future. Consequently, this is not over-kill, it’s just the truth:

1. In the first decade of the 21st century, the median worship attendance at a typical congregation decreased, from 130 to 108.
2. Across the board — among White evangelical, White mainline and racial/ethnic congregations — there was a decrease in attendance. While the number of megachurches almost doubled over the decade, congregations with 2,000 or more weekly attendees make up just 0.5 percent of all congregations.

3. “There are more megachurches, but, in fact, they’re getting an increasing piece of an overall shrinking pie!”
4. In many cases, congregations are seeing not only fewer people in their pews but older ones. At least one-third of members in more than half of mainline Protestant congregations are 65 or older.
5. More than 40 percent of congregations now use electric guitars or drums often or always in worship, up from 29 percent in 2000.
6. One in five congregations that started since 2000 began in new suburbs.
7. Eight in 10 congregations said the recent recession had a negative effect on their finances.

* SOURCE: A Decade of Change in American Congregations 2000 to 2010, http://faithcommunitiestoday.org/sites/faithcommunitiestoday.org/files/Decade%20of%20Change%20Final_0.pdf

8. Less than 20% of Americans regularly attend church—half of what the pollsters report.
9. American church attendance is steadily declining: In 1990, 20.4% of the population attended an Orthodox Christian church on any given weekend. In 2000, that percentage dropped to 18.7% and to 17.7% by 2004. While church attendance numbers have stayed about the same from 1990 to 2004, the U.S. population has grown by 18.1%—more than 48 million people. “So even though the number of attendees is the same, our churches are not keeping up with population growth,” he says.
10. Only one state is outpacing its population growth. Hawaii, where 13.8% of the state’s population (1.3 million) regularly attends church, was the only state where church attendance grew faster than its population growth from 2000 to 2004.
11. Mid-sized churches are shrinking; the smallest and largest churches are growing.
12. Established churches—40 to 190 years old—are, on average, declining.
13. All churches started between 1810 and 1960 (excluding the 1920s) declined in attendance from 2003 to 2004. The greatest attendance decrease in that period (-1.6%) came from churches begun in the 1820s, followed by the 1940s (-1.5%).

14. The increase in churches is only 1/4 of what's needed to keep up with population growth.
15. Between 2000 and 2004, the net gain (the number of new churches minus the closed churches) in the number of evangelical churches was 5,452, but mainline and Catholic churches closed more than they started for a net loss of 2,200, leaving an overall net gain of 3,252 for all Orthodox Christian churches.
16. In 2050, the percentage of the U.S. population attending church will be almost half of what it was in 1990.
17. If present trends continue, the percentage of the population that attends church in 2050 is estimated to be at almost half of 1990's attendance—a drop from 20.4% to 11.7%. Projections for the years leading up to 2050 are less than encouraging, estimating a drop to 16.6% in 2010, and 15.4% in 2020.

SOURCE: 7 Startling Facts: An Up Close Look at Church Attendance in America by Rebecca Barnes and Lindy Lowry <http://www.churchleaders.com>

18. As reported in the 2012 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches, total church membership is 145,691,446 - down 1.15 percent over 2011.
19. For years, the Gallup Research Organization has come up with a consistent figure — 40 percent of all Americans, or roughly 118 million people, who said they attended worship on the previous weekend. Recently, sociologists of religion have questioned that figure, saying Americans tend to exaggerate how often they attend. By actually counting the number of people who showed up at representative sample of churches, two researchers, Kirk Hadaway and Penny Marler found that only 20.4 percent of the population, or half the Gallup figure, attended church each weekend.

As added proof for the accuracy of this smaller percentage of churchgoers, if 20.4% of Americans (approximately 63 million in 2010) attended the nation's 350,000 congregations weekly then the average attendance would be 180 people per congregation which is almost exactly the figure that numerous research studies have found.

Source: http://hirr.hartsem.edu/research/fastfacts/fast_facts.html#attend

Given the aforementioned, the “demand” to fill position openings at religious institutions has been in decline for decades; and there’s a corresponding decline in the “supply” of religious professionals in the marketplace. **So, why would anyone in his or her “right mind” chose a career having anything to do with religion?** *Answer: An overwhelming majority of people in their “right mind” wouldn’t.* In fact, given the alleged importance of religion in a world constantly in fear of the religious right, Radical Islam, ISIS, and more, it’s noteworthy that Forbes Magazine only identified one-(1) religious person among the Top 10 Most Powerful People in the World.

| | WHO | WHAT | AGE | MARITAL STATUS |
|-----|---------------------|---|------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Vladimir Putin | President of Russia | 64 | Divorced |
| 2. | Angela Merkel | Chancellor, Germany | 62 | Married |
| 3. | Barack Obama | President, United States | 55 | Married |
| 4. | Pope Francis | Bishop, Roman Catholic Church | 79 | Single |
| 5. | Xi Jinping | General Secretary, Communist Party, China | 63 | Married |
| 6. | Bill Gates | Co-Founder, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation | 60 | Married |
| 7. | Janet Yellen | Chair, Federal Reserve | 70 | Married |
| 8. | David Cameron | Prime Minister, United Kingdom | 50 | Married |
| 9. | Narendra Modi | Prime Minister, India | 66 | Separated |
| 10. | Larry Page | CEO, Alphabet (Google) | 43 | Married |

Source: Forbes 2016, *The World’s Most Powerful People*, <http://www.forbes.com/powerful-people/list/>

Notably, despite the worldwide impact of religious zealots, when building an objective roster of the most powerful people in the world, the so-called subject matter experts at Forbes Magazine concluded that religious leaders are not particularly important. So, why prepare for a career in religion, particularly when the world says religion has very little value?

RELIGIOUS RECRUITMENT STRATEGIES

Championship ministries are not possible if the church fails to recruit the right people in key positions as ushers, greeters, choir members, outreach and stewardship coordinators, administrators, treasurers and board members, etc. How are churches supposed to discern the scope, range and overall posture of prospective church members?

Colleges use Rivals.com and Scout.com to rate and measure high school athletes. Although Jesus did not use such tactics, perhaps in this modern era the recruitment and selection of pastors and laity (non-clergy) should occur through a proprietary recruitment search firm that specializes in religious positions, and most importantly, this ideal firm should use the Uniform Guidelines on Employee Selection (UGES) to assess all candidates.

It’s extremely important to use the UGES, because it would dramatically reduce, eliminate and replace a recruitment process anchored to subjectivity (including the old-boy-network) with a process anchored to an objective evaluation of empirical data

(facts) specific to the actual essential job functions. For example, when conducting an interview for the position of pastor it's not enough to simply ask if a candidate can preach. Even reviewing videos of a pastor preaching is inadequate, and if used, videos should only be used in the initial first-round of the selection process. Instead, one or more rounds in the selection process should require all candidates to preach a ten-(10) minute "live and in-person" sermon on a pre-determined topic; and, require the same pastor to preach an unplanned and unscheduled ten-(10) minute "live and in-person" sermon on a randomly selected topic selected from a pool of topics submitted by parishioners. The UGES can be used to establish standards for the recruitment and selection of all positions working in religious environments.

Football has a level of expectation, with a "high bar" or "performance standards" that coaches, fans and parents expect in order to win a district, conference, state or national championship. Does your church have "performance standards" that define recruitment and selection protocol for its membership, staff, and leadership? It should! Equally important, if standards are not enforced religious organizations degenerate into mediocrity or worse.

Given the enormous public exposure during at least the past twenty-five years, the failure of the Catholic Church to enforce both religious standards and criminal law resulted in rampant acts of homosexuality practiced by priests upon children. Eventually, these heinous acts resulted in the arrest and incarceration of priests and payment of millions and millions of dollars in litigation, fines, and settlements. Unfortunately, the hypocrisy and inconsistency of religious people, especially politicians, encourages contempt for religious standards. Keep in mind, the desire for religious freedom is a founding principle for the United States of America, but although the First Amendment to U.S. Constitution established the "separation of church (religion) and state (government)" doctrine, nevertheless, the contradiction of "In God We Trust" was blatantly adopted as the nation's motto in 1956 and continues to proudly appear on all U.S. coinage and currency.

RECRUITMENT STANDARDS

In order to conduct football recruitment, there are clearly defined standards, and failure to comply will result in harsh penalties. Note the following:

| NCAA FOOTBALL RULES (Overview) | PENALTY (Example) |
|---|---|
| <p>NCAA Division I coaches may not initiate phone calls with high school freshmen, sophomores, or juniors. However, these student-athlete prospects are allowed to initiate phone calls with Division I coaches if they please. July 1 following a prospect's junior year of high school officially starts the period in which coaches are allowed to initiate phone calls to prospects.</p> <p>Men's Basketball and Football have exceptions to this rule. September 1 of the prospect's senior year begins the period in which football coaches may initiate phone calls to prospects; with a one call per week limit. Men's Basketball coaches are allowed</p> | <p>As a private school in the powerful Southwest Conference with a proud and rich football tradition, Southern Methodist was under a lot of pressure to perform. However, due to its comparatively small size it was difficult for SMU to be competitive without breaking NCAA rules. The NCAA watched SMU closely as it had a reputation for stepping over the line, and five times between 1974 and 1985 SMU's football program was placed on some form of probation.</p> <p>In 1985 SMU was given a three-year probation, two-year bowl ban, and one season live TV ban for recruiting violations. While serving these</p> |

to make one phone call per month to a prospect after June 15 of their sophomore year. Following August 1 of the prospect's senior year, Men's Basketball coaches may make two phone calls per week.

The NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions hands out punishment for rules violations. In the instance of the football program at the University of Colorado at Boulder, hearings were held between NCAA's infractions committee and university officials to determine how serious the infractions were and to decide fair punishment. On October 8, 2002, Colorado's football program was placed on two years' probation and the school's available football scholarships were cut from 25 to 20.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a contact?

A contact occurs any time a college coach says more than hello during a face-to-face contact with a college-bound student-athlete or his or her parents off the college's campus.

What is a contact period?

During a contact period a college coach may have face-to-face contact with college-bound student-athletes or their parents, watch student-athletes compete and visit their high schools, and write or telephone student-athletes or their parents.

What is an evaluation period?

During an evaluation period a college coach may watch college-bound student-athletes compete, visit their high schools, and write or telephone student-athletes or their parents. However, a college coach may not have face-to-face contact with college-bound student-athletes or their parents off the college's campus during an evaluation period.

What is a quiet period?

During a quiet period, a college coach may only have face-to-face contact with college-bound student-athletes or their parents on the college's campus. A coach may not watch student-athletes compete (unless a competition occurs on the college's campus) or visit their high schools. Coaches may write or telephone college-bound student-athletes or their parents during this time.

Source: <http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/resources/recruiting-calendars>

penalties, it was brought to light some of the worst NCAA violations had been, and still were ongoing at SMU. A former player, David Stanley, alleged that SMU had paid him a substantial sum of money to sign with the Mustangs and continued to pay him while he was enrolled in school.

Then it came out that improper payments continued at SMU, even after it had been put on its latest period of probation and that from 1985-86, while on probation, SMU had paid 13 players \$61,000 from a booster slush fund. In addition, the athletic department staff had full knowledge of the slush fund and AD Bob Hitch had been involved with the fund since 1981.

The depth of these violations, combined with stricter NCAA regulations, led to SMU receiving the "death penalty." SMU's 1987 season was cancelled and it was allowed no home games in 1988 (the season was subsequently also cancelled). The NCAA committee declared that the penalty was given in order to "eliminate a program that was built on a legacy of wrongdoing, deceit and rule violations." The punishment effectively destroyed SMU's football program, which has gone 66-169-3 after the team was brought back in 1989. The death penalty didn't just severely damage football at SMU, it was also one of the major factors that led to the dissolution of the Southwest Conference in 1996.

The "death penalty" is the popular term for the National Collegiate Athletic Association's power to ban a school from competing in a sport for at least one year. It is the harshest penalty that an NCAA member school can receive.

It has been implemented only five times

1. The University of Kentucky basketball program for the 1952-53 season.
2. The basketball program at the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette) for the 1973-74 and 1974-75 seasons.
3. The Southern Methodist University football program for the 1987 season.
4. The Division II men's soccer program at Morehouse College for the 2004 and 2005 seasons.
5. The Division III men's tennis program at MacMurray College for the 2005-06 and 2006-07 seasons.

Source: Wikipedia and NCAA Recruitment Rules Book -
<https://web.archive.org/web/20090327061331/http://www.ncaa.org/wps/ncaa?ContentID=271>

Source:http://dev.realclearsports.com/lists/infamous_ncaa_sanctions/smu_football.html

Source:
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_penalty_\(NCA A\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_penalty_(NCA_A))

Given the aforementioned, surely recruitment of and interaction with religious professionals is more flexible; and most importantly, when it comes to breaking rules surely Christians, Muslims, Jews, and other religious faiths are more . . . *forgiving*. Sadly, no. Although there's inconsistency in how some coaches and athletic directors interpret and apply football rules and regulations, these inconsistencies are rarely criminal or life-threatening, because football is only a game.

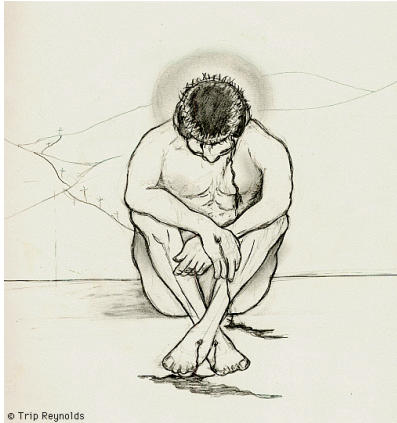
Conversely, violating religious doctrine can provoke theft, rape, death, destruction, and wars. Film director Theo van Gogh worked with the Somali-born writer and politician Ayaan Hirsi Ali to produce the short film *Submission* (2004), which criticized the treatment of women in Islam and resulted in an outrage from the Dutch Muslim community. On November 2, 2004, Van Gogh was murdered by Mohammed Bouyeri, a Dutch-Moroccan Muslim due to his controversial film (Source: Wikipedia). Standards matter.

Every religious faith has its own unique set of rules and regulations that define how and who can be recruited. Conversely, no such disorder exists with amateur or professional football. No matter how dire the need to fill a vacant post, the recruitment of God-loving/God-fearing women as priests is prohibited in the Catholic church; likewise, women cannot be leaders in the nontrinitarian Christian denomination, the Jehovah Witnesses. There are no exceptions to the aforementioned rules.

For example, on September 30, 2005 the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten published 12 editorial cartoons (at right) depicting the "Holy Prophet" Muhammad, which prompted a harsh responses of death threats and vandalism coming from Muslims from around the world. As *the* principal figure for the religion of Islam it is considered highly blasphemous to depict the aniconic "Holy Prophet" Muhammad (below) in any manner. Standards matter.



Conversely, in the U.S. our 1st Amendment rights of freedom of religion, and freedom of speech, and freedom of the press are unilaterally equal in their conflicting omnipotence. Therefore, it's not a rule breaker to publish cartoons of Jesus Christ or Muhammad.



After the Crucifixion



Controversial cartoon published by Charlie Hebdo

Given the condemnation of homosexuality as clearly stated throughout the Bible, Quran, Tanakh/Torah, and other religious documents, recruitment of persons in this demographic is not only prohibited, but can result in death in some predominately Muslim countries.

Leviticus 18:22 (KJV)

²² Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it *is* abomination.

Nevertheless, homosexuality and transgender sexual orientation is now socially and legally acceptable throughout the U.S., but our “freedom of religion” is not required to and does not acquiesce to this mandate.

WHERE TO CONDUCT RELIGIOUS RECRUITMENT?

According to a 2005 research study conducted by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research there are 215 seminaries in the United States. Of course, each graduating class has top students, all trained to be graceful and eloquent in the pulpit, and hopefully, accomplished administrators too. How do “we” access this religious pipeline?

As with football, religious recruitment involves two primary factors: (1) to identify and recruit pastors (“players”) from institutions with a demonstrated successful history of developing religious talent; and (2) to place religious talent (“players”) at religious institutions (“teams”) or churches.

As reported by Share Faith Magazine (sharefaith.com), presented below are the top 20 seminaries in the U.S. for 2016 that develop religious talent.

TOP 20 SEMINARIES IN THE U.S.

| | School | Denomination | Location | Established | Tuition |
|-----|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|--|
| 1. | Knox Theological Seminary | Evangelical | Ft. Lauderdale, Florida | 1989 | \$4,740 per 12 credit hrs |
| 2. | Asbury Theological Seminary | Evangelical | Wilmore, Kentucky | 1923 | \$6,900 per 12 credit hrs |
| 3. | Fuller Theological Seminary | Non-denominational | Pasadena, California | 1947 | \$4,560 per 12 credit hrs |
| 4. | Duke Divinity School | Methodist / Ecumenical | Durham, North Carolina | 1926 | \$21k to \$34K per year |
| 5. | Boston University School of Theology | Interfaith | Boston, Massachusetts | 1839 | \$18,900 per year |
| 6. | University of Notre Dame | Catholic | Notre Dame, Indiana | 1842 | \$46,237 per year |
| 7. | Princeton Theological Seminary | Presbyterian | Princeton, New Jersey | 1812 | \$13,500 per year |
| 8. | Yale Divinity School | Interfaith | New Haven, Connecticut | 1822 | \$23,440 per year |
| 9. | Vanderbilt Divinity School | Protestant | Nashville, Tennessee | 1875 | \$10,236 per semester |
| 10. | The University of Chicago Divinity School | Interfaith | Chicago, Illinois | 1891 | \$11,697 per quarter |
| 11. | Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary | Baptist | Lynchburg, Virginia | 1973 | \$22,000 per year |
| 12. | Westminster Theological Seminary | Presbyterian and Reformed | Glenside, Pennsylvania | 1928 | \$5,700 per quarter |
| 13. | Regent College | Evangelical | Vancouver, British Columbia | 1968 | \$11,280 to \$42,300 per year |
| 14. | Southern Baptist Theological Seminary | Baptist | Louisville, Kentucky | 1859 | \$1,051 to \$1,852 per 3-credit semester hrs |
| 15. | Moody Theological Seminary and Graduate School (Moody Bible Institute) | Evangelical | Chicago, Illinois | 1886 | \$9,500 per semester |
| 16. | Dallas Theological Seminary | Evangelical | Dallas, Texas | 1925 | \$5,940 per 12 credit hrs |
| 17. | Talbot School of Theology at Biola University | Evangelical | La Mirada, California | 1952 | \$6,684 per 12 credit hrs |
| 18. | Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary | Evangelical | South Hamilton, Massachusetts | 1969 | \$18,750 per year |
| 19. | Wheaton College | Evangelical | Wheaton, Illinois | 1860 | (Undergrad) \$32,720 per year |

| | | | | | |
|-----|--|-------------|---------------------|------|---|
| | | | | | (M.A.) \$18,720 per year or \$9,360 per 12-credit hrs |
| 20. | Trinity Evangelical Divinity School | Evangelical | Deerfield, Illinois | 1897 | \$7,620 per 12 credit hrs |

Presented below are the 25 largest religious denominations or “teams” that typically employ graduating seminary students. *Source: 2012 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches.*

TOP 25 LARGEST RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS

| | Religious Team * | Number of Members | History |
|-----|---|-------------------|--|
| 1. | The Catholic Church ** | 68,202,492 | Ranked 1 in 2011 down 0.44 percent. |
| 2. | Southern Baptist Convention ** | 16,136,044 | Ranked 2 in 2011, down 0.15 percent. |
| 3. | The United Methodist Church | 7,679,850 | Ranked 3 in 2011, down 1.22 percent. |
| 4. | The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints | 6,157,238 | Ranked 4 in 2011, up 1.62 percent. |
| 5. | The Church of God in Christ | 5,499,875 | Ranked 5 in 2011, no update reported. |
| 6. | National Baptist Convention , U.S.A. , Inc. | 5,197,512 | Ranked 6 in 2011, up 3.95 percent. |
| 7. | Evangelical Lutheran Church in America | 4,274,855 | Ranked 7 in 2011, down 5.90 percent. |
| 8. | National Baptist Convention of America , Inc. | 3,500,000 | Ranked 8 in 2011, no update reported. |
| 9. | Assemblies of God | 3,030,944 | Ranked 9 in 2011, up 3.99 percent. |
| 10. | Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) | 2,675,873 | Ranked 10 in 2011, down 3.42 percent. |
| 11. | African Methodist Episcopal Church | 2,500,000 | Ranked 11 in 2011, no update reported. |
| 12. | National Missionary Baptist Convention of America | 2,500,000 | Ranked 11 in 2011, no update reported. |
| 13. | The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod (LCMS) | 2,278,586 | Ranked 13 in 2011, down 1.45 percent. |
| 14. | The Episcopal Church | 1,951,907 | Ranked 14 in 2011, down 2.71 percent. |
| 15. | Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc. | 1,800,000 | Ranked 17 in 2011, up 20 percent. |
| 16. | Churches of Christ | 1,639,495 | Ranked 15 in 2011, no update reported. |
| 17. | Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America | 1,500,000 | Ranked 16 in 2011, no update reported. |
| 18. | The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church | 1,400,000 | Ranked 18 in 2011, no update reported. |
| 19. | American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. | 1,308,054 | Ranked 19 in 2011, down 0.19 |

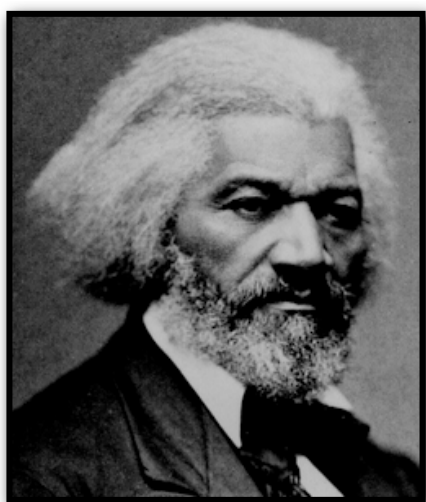
| | | | |
|-----|---|-----------|--|
| | | | percent. |
| 20. | Jehovah's Witnesses | 1,184,249 | Ranked 20 in 2011, up 1.85 percent. |
| 21. | Church of God (Cleveland , Tennessee) | 1,074,047 | Ranked 22 in 2011, down 0.21 percent. |
| 22. | Christian Churches and Churches of Christ | 1,071,616 | Ranked 23 in 2011, no update reported. |
| 23. | Seventh-day Adventist Church | 1,060,386 | Ranked 24 in 2011, up 1.61 percent. |
| 24. | United Church of Christ | 1,058,423 | Ranked 21 in 2011, down 2.02 percent. |
| 25. | Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. | 1,010,000 | Ranked 25 in 2011, no update reported. |

* There is no official directory for all the congregations in the country, so sociologists of religion have to rely on statistical estimates extrapolated from surveys. These are often disputed, and to complicate matters, thousands of new churches open each year, while thousands of others close. Hartford Institute estimates there are roughly 350,000 religious congregations in the United States. This estimate relies on the RCMS 2010 religious congregations census. Of those, about 314,000 are Protestant and other Christian churches, and 24,000 are Catholic and Orthodox churches. Non-Christian religious congregations are estimated at about 12,000.

** Since the 2010 census of nondenominational/independent congregations, we now know that this grouping of churches, if taken together, would be the second largest Protestant group in the country with over 35,000 congregations and over 12,200,000 adherents.

RELIGIOUS RECRUITMENT IS RACE-BASED

As documented previously in this chapter with, “The Collapse of Religious Recruitment,” for many decades both total church attendance and total church membership have dropped, which continues to this very day. Unfortunately, there’s another “elephant in the room” that permeates all of organized religion – race!



You profess to believe “that, of one blood, God made all nations of men to dwell on the face of all the earth,” and hath commanded all men, everywhere to love one another; yet you notoriously hate, (and glory in your hatred), all men whose skins are not colored like your own.

The existence of slavery in this country brands your republicanism as a sham, your humanity as a base pretence, and your Christianity as a lie.

What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?

**By
FREDERICK DOUGLASS
July 5, 1852**

BEING BLACK AND RELIGIOUS IS PROBLEMATIC - Nearly two-hundred-(200) years ago, thousands of Black people left the Methodist Church in 1816 to create the African Methodist Episcopal Church (A.M.E.), and the exodus of Black people continued in 1870 when more Black people left to escape the blatant racism and hypocrisy of "White-privilege-based-religion" to create the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (C.M.E.). Lessons learned. What's changed?

Well, one-hundred and sixteen-(116) years later, on June 13, 1968, author James Baldwin (pictured below) appeared on Dick Cavett's nationally broadcast talk show program and said:



"I don't know what most White people in this country feel, but I can only conclude what they feel based from the state of their institutions. I don't know if White Christians hate Negroes or not, but I know that we have a Christian church that is White, and we have a Christian church that is Black. I know as Malcolm X once put it, "It's the most segregated hour in America life is high noon on Sunday!" It says a great deal to me about a Christian nation.

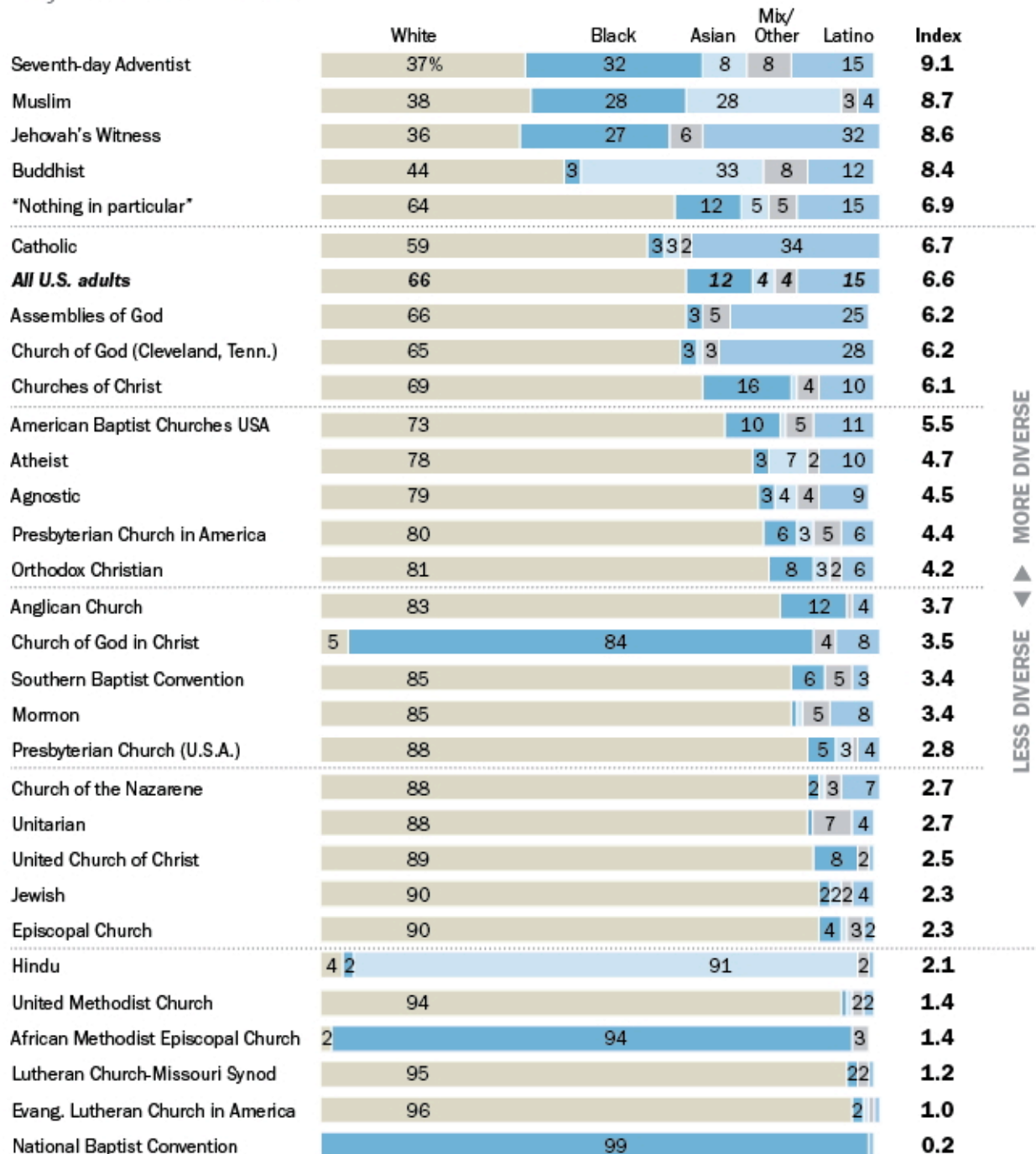
*It means I can't afford to trust most White Christians, and I certainly can't afford to trust the Christian church. I don't know whether the labor unions and their bosses really hate me, that doesn't matter, but I know I'm not in their unions. I don't know if the real estate lobbyists have anything against Black people, but I know the real estate lobbyist keep me in the ghetto. I don't know if the Board of Education hates Black people, but I know the text books they give my children to read, and the schools we have to go to. **Now, this is the evidence.** You want me to make an act of **faith**, risking myself, my wife, my woman, my sister, my children on some . . . idealism, which you assure me exists in America which I have never seen."*

Unfortunately, even in 2017 race remains a key factor in religious recruitment, and with very few exceptions, White owned and controlled religious groups intentionally discriminate against people of color in the recruitment of staff and leadership positions. Conversely, all levels of amateur and professional football are significantly more racially inclusive than organized religion. **Why is organized religion so much more racist than amateur and professional football? Why?? ANSWER: In the United States, White privilege defines all rules and all exceptions to the rules. Proof?**

The following graph from the Pew Research Center captures the percent of each religious group by racial category. This data proves the racial demographic of organized religions mirror the racial demographic of the U.S., with White people primarily worshipping with White people, Black people primarily worshipping with Black people, Latino people primarily worshipping with Latino people, and Asian people primarily worshipping with Asian people, etc. Unlike football, how can religious recruitment ever become truly egalitarian when the status quo remains in effect?

How Racially Diverse Are U.S. Religious Groups?

% of each religious group in each racial/ethnic category, and each group's diversity score on the Herfindahl-Hirschman index



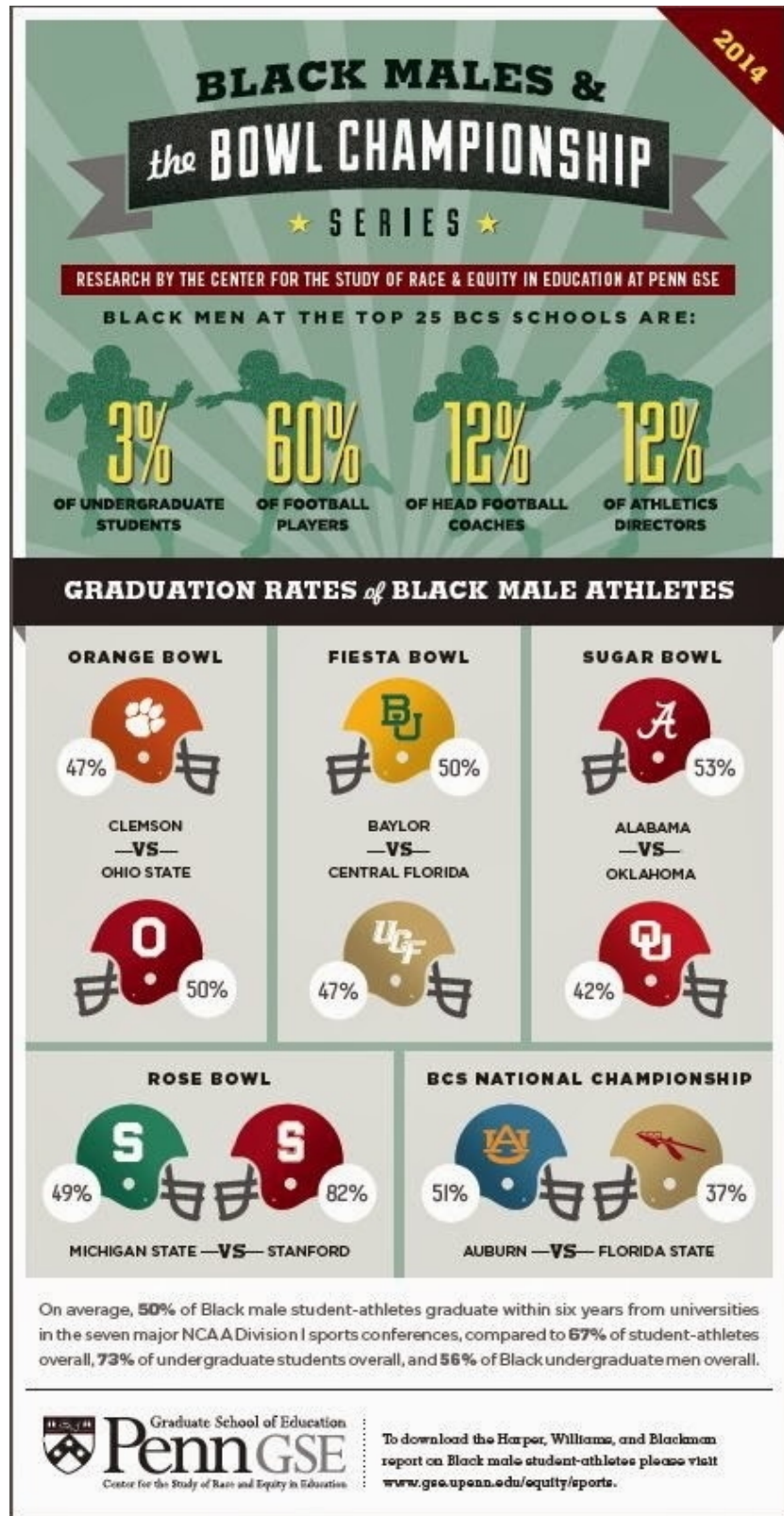
Source: 2014 Religious Landscape Study.

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. Blacks, whites, Asians and others/mixed include only those who are not Latino. Latinos include people of all races.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

COLLEGE FOOTBALL RECRUITMENT IS RACE-BASED AND EXPLOITS BLACKS

1. Between 2007 and 2010, Black men were 2.8% of full-time, degree-seeking undergraduate students, but 57.1% of football teams and 64.3% of basketball teams.
2. Across four cohorts, 50.2% of Black male student-athletes graduated within six years, compared to 66.9% of student-athletes overall, 72.8% of undergraduate students overall, and 55.5% of Black undergraduate men overall.
3. 96.1% of these NCAA Division I colleges and universities graduated Black male student-athletes at rates lower than student-athletes overall.
4. 97.4% of institutions graduated Black male student-athletes at rates lower than undergraduate students overall. On no campus were rates exactly comparable for these two comparison groups.
5. At one university, Black male student-athletes graduated at a comparable rate to Black undergraduate men overall. On 72.4% of the other campuses, graduation rates for Black male student-athletes were lower than rates for Black undergraduate men overall.



Dr. Richard Lapchick, a pioneer for human rights and racial equality, founded the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (tidesports.org) at the DeVos Sport Business Management Graduate Program in the University of Central Florida's College of Business Administration. Lapchick has been monitoring the annual racial and gender demographics for all major professional sports and NCAA Division I college sports. Let's take a look at the racial "recruitment" demographics of the top three professional men's athletic leagues - football, basketball, and baseball.

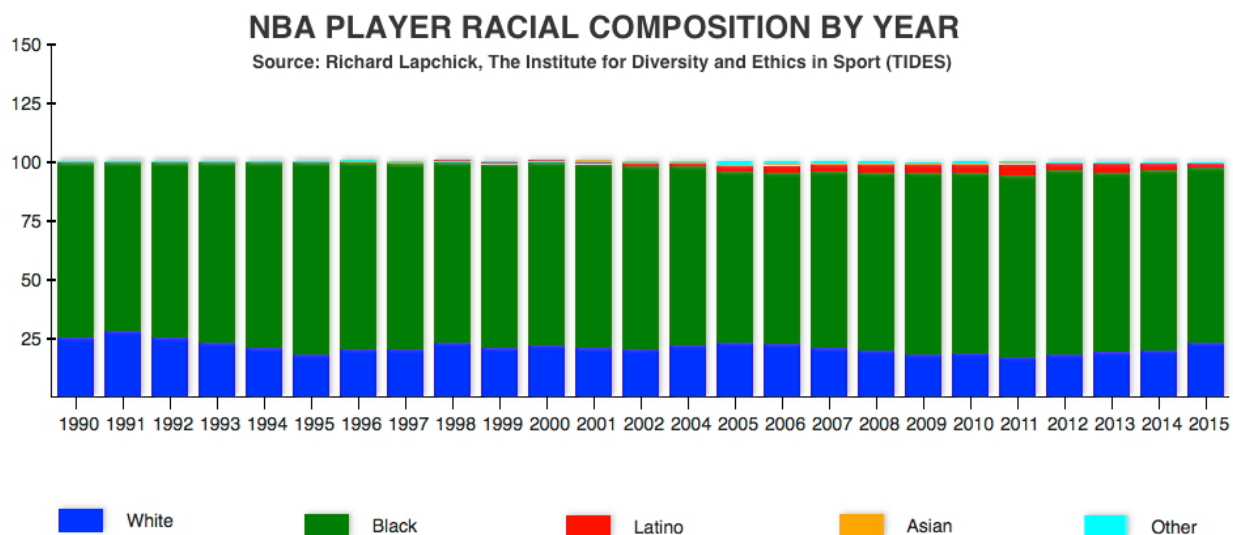
Recruitment Diversity – Professional Football

1. 2015 was an important milestone year for the National Football League. They have continued their emphasis on attracting and retaining diverse talent across the entire league. In 2015, this resulted in the League announcing the first female coach and the first female official.
2. In the League Office, as a result of both hiring and promotions, the number of women and people of color at or above the vice president level continued to increase. The number of people of color at or above the VP level increased from 14 in 2014 to 21 in 2015. Similarly, the number of women at or above the VP level increased from 21 in 2014 to 31 in 2015.
3. League Office initiatives continued to include the success of a Women's Interactive Network, as well as a partnership with leading diversity advocacy organizations such as the Fritz Pollard Alliance and Women In Sports and Events. The League Office practices diversity training across the organization, diversity accountabilities for all senior leaders, enhancement of diversity recruitment resources, and the of creation talent management programs.
4. Paraag Marathe of the San Francisco 49ers was the only NFL team president of color in 2015.
5. There were seven African-American general managers in 2015. This marked the ninth consecutive year with at least five general managers who are people of color. Ozzie Newsome became the second African-American general manager to win a Super Bowl when the Baltimore Ravens won in 2013.
6. Seven out of the last 16 Super Bowl teams have had either an African-American head coach or general manager. The coaches were Mike Tomlin (Steelers, twice) and Jim Caldwell (Colts). The GMs were Jerry Reese (Giants, twice), Rod Graves (Cardinals) and Ozzie Newsome (Ravens).
7. There were six head coaches of color at the start of the 2015 season, up from five in 2014. This remains a significant concern among NFL officials. The all-time record of eight people of color as head coaches in the NFL was in 2011.

8. The percent of people of color serving as vice presidents on NFL teams increased from 11.5 percent in 2014 to 13.7 percent in 2015. Although still low, the percent of female vice presidents increased substantially from 17.8 percent in 2014 to 22.9 percent in 2015.
9. The percent of people of color who held senior administrator positions on NFL teams increased from 16.2 percent in 2014 to 19.3 percent in 2015. The percent of the total senior administrator positions on NFL teams held by women increased by 2.3 percentage points to 22.2 percent since the last report card.
10. The percent of people of color who held professional positions on NFL teams increased from 18.4 percent in 2014 to 19.4 percent in 2015. The percent of women in professional administrative positions increased by 1.6 percentage points from 30.6 percent in 2014 to 32.2 percent in 2015.
11. The percent of African-American players increased from 67.3 percent in the 2013 season to 68.7 percent in 2014. The percent of white players decreased from 31 percent in 2013 to 28.6 percent in 2014. Latinos, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and those classified as “other” made up 0.7 percent, 1.1 percent, and 0.9 percent of 2014 NFL rosters, respectively; one percent were international players.

Source: Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport, tidesports.org

Recruitment Diversity – Professional Basketball



In 2015, the NBA was composed of 74.4 percent Black players, 23.3 percent White players, 1.8 percent Latino players, and 0.2 percent Asian players. The league has the highest percentage of black players of any major professional sports leagues in the United States and Canada. Source: <http://www.tidesport.org/reports.html>

1. Michael Jordan was the majority owner of the Charlotte Hornets. Vivek Ranadive, who is from India, was the controlling owner of the Sacramento Kings. They were the first two owners of color to lead their teams in any of the major professional sports leagues.
2. The percentage of white NBA players was 18.3 percent, a decrease of 5.0 percentage points from the 23.3 percent recorded in 2014-2015.
3. Black players comprised 74.3 percent of all NBA players (a decrease of 0.1 of a percentage point) while 81.7 percent of players were people of color (an increase of 5.0 percentage points).
4. International players comprised 22.3 percent of the NBA's players during the 2015-2016 season, which was the highest recorded percentage of international players in NBA history.
5. At the start of the 2015-16 season, head coaches who were people of color represented 30 percent of all NBA head coaches, which was a decrease from the 33.3 percent recorded at the beginning of the 2014-2015 season. After changes during and at the end of the playoffs, there remained nine (30 percent) NBA head coaches of color.
6. NBA general managers of color decreased from six to 4 (13.3 percent) in the 2015-2016 season.
7. Assistant coaches who were people of color represented 44.3 percent of the NBA's assistant coaches, a sizable increase from 40.8 percent last season, which was the lowest recorded percent of assistant coaches of color since 2006-2007.
8. Mark Tatum was appointed NBA Deputy Commissioner and Chief Operating Officer in 2014. Tatum's appointment made him the highest-ranking African-American in the league office of any of the major American professional sports.
9. Kathy Behrens, President, Social Responsibility & Player Programs, is the highest-ranking woman in a men's professional sport.
10. In 2015, the Sacramento Kings hired Nancy Lieberman as the second full-time female NBA assistant coach ever.
11. At the NBA League Office, 35.3 percent of professional staff positions were held by people of color, a decrease from 35.4 percent at the end of the 2014-2015 season.
12. Women held 39.6 percent of all professional positions in the NBA League Office, a decrease from 40.9 percent at the end of the 2014-2015 season.

13. In June 2015, the NBA hired Oris Stuart as Senior Vice President, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer. Stuart is responsible for overseeing diversity and inclusion strategies for the NBA, WNBA, and NBA D- League.

Source: Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport, tidesports.org

Recruitment Diversity – Professional Baseball

“Although the total percentage of players of color has steadily risen over the years, there has been a concern in Major League Baseball about the relatively small and declining percentage of African-American players. While the percentage of African-American players remained at 8.3 percent, the first round of the 2015 MLB Draft showed a promising shift as nine African-American players (25 percent of 36 first-round draftees) were selected. But increasing the percentage of African-American players will continue to be a very slow process.” Dr. Richard Lapchick

1. 2016 Opening Day, the number of players from the 25-Man Major League rosters who identified themselves as African-American or Black was approximately 8.3 percent, exact same percentage as active Opening Day rosters in 2015.
2. The percentage of Latino players decreased from 29.3 percent in 2015 to 28.5 on 2016 opening day rosters.
3. The percentage of Asian players increased from 1.2 percent in 2015 to 1.7 percent in 2016.
4. The percentage of white players increased from 58.8 percent in 2015 to 59.07 percent in 2016.

Source: Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport, tidesports.org

When compared to football, the recruiting “phenomenon” for organized religion has not progressed anywhere nearly as much as the racial demographics of the top three professional men’s athletic leagues of football, basketball, or even baseball. There’s clearly racial camaraderie in football that fosters “good will to all men,” a cornerstone of egalitarian principles, but there’s very little evidence of truly egalitarian recruitment in organized religion. *So, what about gender-based recruitment in religion?*

RELIGIOUS RECRUITMENT IS SEX-BASED

Historically, and yes, even in 2017, the overwhelming majority of leaders among all religious faiths are men. As documented in the National Congregations Study by the Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA) “thearda.com,” many religious denominations in the United States allow women to pastor churches and synagogues,

but only 11% of American congregations were led by women in 2012, which hasn't changed since 1998. Likewise, many of the nation's largest denominations, including Roman Catholics, Southern Baptists, Mormons (Later-day Saints), and the Orthodox Church in America do not ordain women or allow them to lead congregations.

FEEDER GROUP

As published in the 2015 United States Census {Estimate} (census.gov), the population demographic of the United States is:

| PEOPLE | Percent % |
|-------------------|-----------|
| White | 77.1 |
| Latino | 17.6 |
| Black | 13.3 |
| Asian | 5.6 |
| Native American | 1.2 |
| Two or More Races | 2.6 |

| PEOPLE | Percent % |
|--------|-----------|
| Female | 50.8 |
| Male | 49.2 |

Population Estimate (July 1, 2015):
321,418,820



As published in the 2014 Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) FactBook (cia.gov), the religious demographic in the United States is:

| DENOMINATION | Percent % |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Protestant | 46.5 |
| Roman Catholic | 20.8 |
| Mormon | 1.6 |
| Jehovah's Witness | 0.8 |
| Other Christian | 0.9 |
| Jewish | 1.9 |
| Muslim | 0.9 |
| Buddhist | 0.7 |
| Hindu | 0.7 |
| Other | 1.8 |
| Unaffiliated | 22.8 |
| Don't Know / Refused | 0.6 |

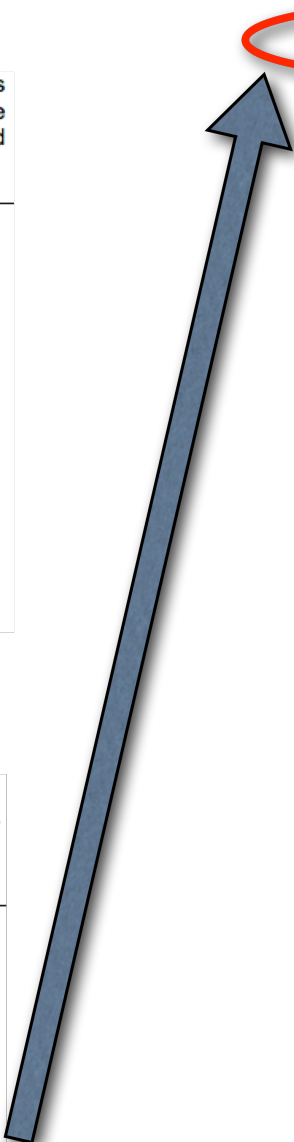
Ordination of Women

Whether major religious groups generally allow the ordination of women

| | |
|---|-----|
| American Baptist Church | Yes |
| Buddhist | Yes |
| Episcopal Church | Yes |
| Evangelical Lutheran Church in America | Yes |
| Jewish: Reform and Conservative Movements | Yes |
| Jewish Orthodox | No |
| Latter Day Saints (Mormon) | No |
| Missouri Synod Lutheran Church | No |
| Muslim | No |
| Orthodox Church in America | No |
| Presbyterian Church (USA) | Yes |
| Roman Catholic Church | No |
| Southern Baptist Convention | No |
| Unitarian Universalist | Yes |
| United Church of Christ | Yes |
| United Methodist Church | Yes |

Source: Staff reports

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**Conclusion:
51% of the U.S.
population, who are
females, are highly
unlikely to be
recruited and hired
as pastors.**

With regard to recruiting women (and minorities), there are additional absolutes, such as:

- the larger the church, women are significantly less likely to be recruited.

Gender of Religious Leader by Size of Congregation (2012)

Source: http://www.thearda.com/ConQS/qs_236.asp

| | 50 or less | 51-100 | 101-250 | 251-1,000 | More than 1,000 | TOTAL |
|---------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Male | 86.1% 454 | 86.0% 265 | 92.2% 238 | 95.4% 125 | 96.6% 28 | 88.6% 1110 |
| Female | 13.9% 73 | 14.0% 43 | 7.8% 20 | 4.6% 6 | 3.4% 1 | 11.4% 143 |
| Missing | 42 | 12 | 16 | 5 | 3 | 78 |
| TOTAL | 100.0% 527 | 100.0% 308 | 100.0% 258 | 100.0% 131 | 100.0% 29 | 1253 |

- contrary to conservative religious doctrine in the Bible, Tanakh/Torah, Quran, Book of Mormon or other dogma, women are more likely to be liberal.

Gender of Religious Leader by Political Ideology (2012)

Source: http://www.thearda.com/ConQS/qs_236.asp

| | More on the conservative side | Right in the middle | More on the liberal side | Missing | TOTAL |
|---------|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------|---------------|
| Male | 93.3% 609 | 87.8% 361 | 68.8% 99 | 41 | 88.5% 1069 |
| Female | 6.7% 44 | 12.2% 50 | 31.3% 45 | 4 | 11.5% 139 |
| Missing | 49 | 21 | 2 | 0 | 72 |
| TOTAL | 100.0% 653 | 100.0% 411 | 100.0% 144 | 45 | 1208 |

Madalyn Murray O'Hair is best known for the Murray v. Curlett lawsuit, which led to a landmark Supreme Court ruling ending official Bible-reading in American public schools in 1963. During an interview with Playboy in 1965, Madalyn Murray O'Hair described herself as a "militant feminist" and expressed her dissatisfaction with women's inequality in America, stating during the interview:

"The American male continues to use her sexually for one thing: a means to the end of his own ejaculation. It doesn't seem to occur to him that she might be a worthwhile end in herself, or to see to it that she has a proper sexual release. And, to him, sex appeal is directly proportional to the immensity of a woman's tits. I'm not saying that all American men are this way, but nine out of ten are breast-fixated, wham-bam-thank-you-ma'am cretins who just don't give a damn about anyone's gratification but their own.

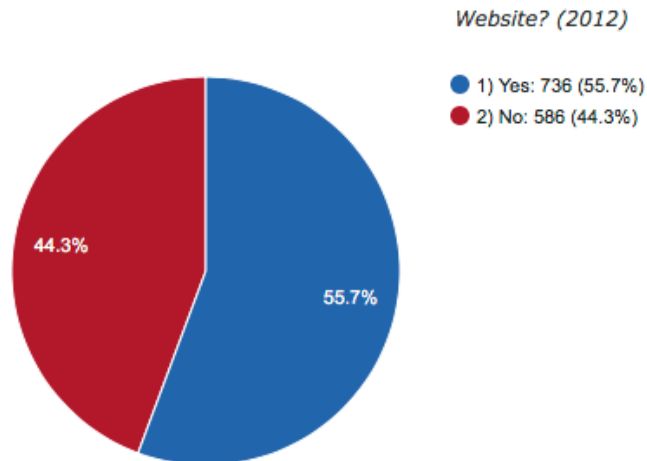
If you're talking about intellectual and social equality for women, we're not much better off. We're just beginning to break the ice. America is still very much a male-dominated society. Most American men feel threatened sexually unless they're taller than the female, more intellectual, better educated, better paid and higher placed statuswise in the business world. They've got to be the authority, the final word. They say they're looking for a girl just like the girl who married dear old dad, but what they really want, and usually get, is an empty-headed little chick who's very young and very physical -- and very submissive.

Well, I just can't see either a man or a woman in a dependency position, because from this sort of relationship flows a feeling of superiority on one side and inferiority on the other, and that's a form of slow poison. As I see it, men wouldn't want somebody inferior to them unless they felt inadequate themselves. They're intimidated by a mature woman."

RELIGIOUS RECRUITMENT IS NOT PUBLICIZED

Advertising is a major tenet of recruitment. It's common sense for an employer to announce their need to fill job openings. Traditionally, employers run advertisements in newspapers and in-house trade journals. In 2017, you'd think, and you'd be wrong, that the overwhelming majority of churches have embraced evolving technologies, including smart phones, social media, web sites, and even traditional broadcast communications such as radio, television, and cable. With regard to religious recruitment advertising there are additional absolutes, such as:

- Just under 45% of all churches do not have a web site to self-promote and engage in recruitment advertising



Source: http://www.thearda.com/ConQS/qs_245.asp

- Black churches are least likely to have a web site to self-promote and engage in recruitment advertising

Website? by Religious Tradition (2012)

http://www.thearda.com/ConQS/qs_245.asp

| | Roman Catholic | White conservative, evangelical, or fundamentalist | Black Protestant | White liberal or moderate | Non-Christian | TOTAL |
|---------|----------------|--|------------------|---------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Yes | 75.0% 54 | 59.7% 367 | 28.3% 80 | 59.5% 157 | 88.6% 78 | 55.7% 736 |
| No | 25.0% 18 | 40.3% 248 | 71.7% 203 | 40.5% 107 | 11.4% 10 | 44.3% 586 |
| Missing | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 9 |
| TOTAL | 100.0% 72 | 100.0% 615 | 100.0% 283 | 100.0% 264 | 100.0% 88 | 1322 |

- Churches with fewer members are least likely to have a web site to self-promote and engage in recruitment advertising

Website? by Size of Congregation (2012)

http://www.thearda.com/ConQS/qs_245.asp

| | 50 or less | 51-100 | 101-250 | 251-1,000 | More than 1,000 | TOTAL |
|---------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Yes | 34.5% 194 | 53.1% 170 | 80.6% 220 | 90.4% 122 | 93.8% 30 | 55.7% 736 |
| No | 65.5% 368 | 46.9% 150 | 19.4% 53 | 9.6% 13 | 6.3% 2 | 44.3% 586 |
| Missing | 6 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 9 |
| TOTAL | 100.0% 562 | 100.0% 320 | 100.0% 273 | 100.0% 135 | 100.0% 32 | 1322 |

- Liberal churches are more likely to have a web site to self-promote and engage in recruitment advertising

Website? by Theology (2012)

http://www.thearda.com/ConQS/qs_245.asp

| | More on the conservative side | Right in the middle | More on the liberal side | Missing | TOTAL |
|---------|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------|--------------|
| Yes | 52.9% 430 | 54.1% 177 | 78.0% 124 | 5 | 56.3% 731 |
| No | 47.1% 383 | 45.9% 150 | 22.0% 35 | 19 | 43.7% 568 |
| Missing | 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 9 |
| TOTAL | 100.0% 813 | 100.0% 327 | 100.0% 159 | 24 | 1299 |

RECRUIT TO GET THE WORD OUT

“FOOTBALL IS BETTER THAN RELIGION” proposes that religious leaders jointly publish the *First Team Seminary All-Americans*. Similar to the NFL draft, and the NBA draft, the best seminarians will go as first round draft picks as selected for the top churches in the USA, or to churches known to struggle the most to meet commitments to their parishioners and communities. The seminarians that demonstrate greatest proficiencies in preaching, teaching, and leadership are equivalent to winners of college football’s Heisman Trophy winner and are acknowledged as such.

Imagine a major network covering the U.S. Clergy Draft held at a great site, such as the Mandalay Bay Events Center in Las Vegas, Nevada or Madison Square Garden in New York, New York. Surely, if hosted by Steve Harvey or Stephen Colbert, there must be millions of protestant and Catholic people who’ll buy tickets to attend the “live” event, and watch the television broadcast of such a program, to see which pastors, Christian theologians, and church administrators appointed to serve the Lord and his people?

Or, if the major television or cable networks refuse to broadcast the “U.S. Clergy Draft,” then why don’t or why won’t the major religious broadcast media join together and take responsibility to self-promote their mutual agendas with a simulcast broadcast?

STEP 1 – SET THE STAGE / U.S. CLERGY DRAFT

RELIGIOUS BROADCAST TELEVISION / RADIO / CABLE MEDIA

| | NETWORK | DESCRIPTION |
|----|---------|--|
| 1. | EWTN | Eternal Word Television Network The network, through diocesan television channels in other Catholic countries, advertises itself as the EWTN: The Global Catholic Network. |
| 2. | GOD TV | GOD TV is an international Christian media network that started in the UK, broadcasts from Israel and has its headquarters in the USA and UK. Regional offices are located in India, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Kenya, Ghana and Australia. |
| 3. | JLTV | Jewish Life Television’s broadcast facilities are in Los Angeles . In the United States, JLTV is available to 40 million households through DirecTV, Time Warner Cable, Comcast, Google Fiber, Atlantic Broadband, Bright House, and independent cable systems. |
| 4. | TBN | Trinity Broadcast Network is also the world’s largest religious television network. TBN owns and operates six broadcast networks, each reaching separate demographics; in addition to the main TBN network, TBN owns Hillsong Channel, Smile, TBN Enlace, TBN Salsa, and JUCE TV. It also owns several other religious networks outside of the United States, including international versions of its five U.S. networks. |
| 5. | CTN | Christian Television Network is a non-profit broadcast television network of small owned-and-operated stations (O&O) |

| | | |
|-----|----------------------------|---|
| | | that broadcasts religious programming. |
| 6. | Salem Media Group | Salem Communications Corporation) is an American radio broadcaster, Internet content provider, and magazine and book publisher based in Camarillo, California, targeting audiences interested in Christian and what it describes as "family-themed content and conservative values." In addition to its radio properties, the company owns Salem Radio Network, which syndicates talk, news and music programming to approximately 2,400 affiliates; Salem Media Representatives, a radio advertising company; Salem Web Network, an Internet provider of Christian content and online streaming with over 100 Christian content and conservative opinion websites; and Salem Publishing, a publisher of Christian themed magazines. Salem owns 117 radio stations in 38 markets, including 60 stations in the top 25 markets and 29 in the top 10. FamilyTalk is a Christian-themed talk format on Sirius XM Radio Channel 131. Additionally, Salem owns conservative websites Townhall.com, RedState, and Hot Air, as well as Twitter aggregator Twitchy. |
| 7. | The Worship Network | The Worship Network , or Worship , is a broadcast television service that provides alternative Christian worship-themed programming 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The network is based in Nashville, Tennessee, in the United States, and is available in more than 50 countries. |
| 8. | VTN | Victory Television Network's programming is available on more than 225 cable systems across Arkansas, and KVTN is also carried on satellite within the Little Rock market through DirecTV and Dish Network. |
| 9. | SBN | Rev. Jimmy Swaggart's Sonlife Broadcasting Network (SBN) is a 24 hour-a-day television network broadcast on DirecTV, Dish Network, Glorystar, AT&T U-verse, Verizon Fios, and other cable TV providers and broadcast stations, including Free-To-Air (FTA) satellite television, and in the United Kingdom on SKY, Freesat, and Freeview. |
| 10. | GEB America | Founded by Oral Roberts in 1996, GEB America is a digital satellite television network, which airs primarily Christian and family programming. GEB America broadcast on KGEB Channel 53 in Tulsa, Oklahoma and on DirecTV, SSES-1, and other cable systems. GEB America is owned by Oral Roberts University and is headquartered in Tulsa, Oklahoma. |

STEP 2 – FUND THE EVENT / U.S. CLERGY DRAFT

So, what if the major religious broadcast media join together and took responsibility to broadcast the "U.S. Clergy Draft," ***how do we compel people to watch, to make the event worthy of interest?*** That's easy, and we don't have to re-create the wheel, we simply follow the standard television template: in

concert with a cadre of national sponsors [Sony, Nike, Cokesbury (the retail division of the United Methodist Publishing House), etc.] we manipulate all media to take notice by establishing no less than \$2,000,000 in prize money for seminarians in the “U.S. Clergy Draft.”

In concept, unlike football where drafted players win multimillion dollar salaries, the top seminarians would win control over millions in fund raising dollars to support their ministries, subject of course to IRS rules, and the policies of the church that drafts the seminarian. With professional football the public is denied access to these millionaire athletes, and except for a few tokens, there’s very little evidence of the majority of athletes actually doing “goodwill” in the communities where they play. **Conversely, winners of the “U.S. Clergy Draft” will be required to provide access to the communities they serve, and they must validate distribution of money within the communities they serve.**

As proposed below, the top 10 organized religions will each contribute no less than \$100,000 to the “U.S. Clergy Draft,” and each of the religious broadcast networks will each contribute no less than \$100,000 to the “U.S. Clergy Draft.” Donations will be reimbursed via commercial advertisements and sponsorships. Plus, without regard to a person’s religious faith, anyone can contribute to fund the “U.S. Clergy Draft.” Consider the following:

| TOP 10 FAITHS | DONATION* | RELIGIOUS BROADCAST NETWORKS | DONATION* | UNSOLICITED DONATIONS | TOTAL |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Protestant | \$ 100,000 | EWTN | \$ 100,000 | TBD | \$ 200,000 |
| Roman Catholic | 100,000 | GOD TV | 100,000 | TBD | 200,000 |
| Mormom | 100,000 | JLTV | 100,000 | TBD | 200,000 |
| Johovah’s Witness | 100,000 | TBN | 100,000 | TBD | 200,000 |
| Other Christian | 100,000 | CTN | 100,000 | TBD | 200,000 |
| Jewish | 100,000 | SALEM MEDIA GROUP | 100,000 | TBD | 200,000 |
| Muslim | 100,000 | THE WORSHIP NETWORK | 100,000 | TBD | 200,000 |
| Buddhist | 100,000 | VTN | 100,000 | TBD | 200,000 |
| Hindu | 100,000 | SBN | 100,000 | TBD | 200,000 |
| Other | 100,000 | GEB AMERICA | 100,000 | TBD | 200,000 |
| TOTAL | \$1,000,000 | | \$1,000,000 | TBD | \$2,000,000 |

* Reimbursed via commercial advertisements and sponsorships.

STEP 3 – PREP THE PARTICIPANTS / U.S. CLERGY DRAFT

In football, the Heisman Trophy is awarded annually to the most outstanding player in college football; a player whose athletic performance best exhibits the pursuit of excellence with integrity, diligence, perseverance, and hard

work. Likewise, the winner of the “U.S. Clergy Draft” should be a seminarian that demonstrates the greatest proficiencies in preaching, teaching, leadership, and pastoral care.

SELECTION PROCESS / U.S. CLERGY DRAFT

| WHO'S ELIGIBLE | ENTRY | JUDGING PANEL |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Persons enrolled at any accredited U.S. based seminary or equivalent religious institution.</p> | <p>Eligible seminarians must submit to “clergydraft.com” the following portfolio:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a sermon submitted as a .docx document of no less than 1,500 words. 2. A video of the seminarian giving a sermon before a “live” audience or no less than fifty-(50) people, lasting no less than 20 minutes; 3. A video capturing the seminarian teaching religious scripture (Bible, Tanakh/Torah, Quran, Book of Mormon, etc.) before an audience of no less than five-(5) people. 4. Evidence (via print, audio, video, social media, etc.) of providing pastoral care to three-(3) different demographics. 5. Evidence of providing excellence in the management of religious financial services, operations, and administrative services. 6. Evidence of implementing original strategies to successfully grow and sustain the membership of any church, parish, temple, synagogue, etc. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Religious journalists and authors who have validated such with registration at “clergydraft.com.” 2. Pastors, clergy, rabbi, etc. who have validated such with registration at “clergydraft.com.” 3. Members of any church, parish, temple, synagogue, etc., who have validated such with registration at “clergydraft.com.” |

The “U.S. Clergy Draft” offers a double-whammy: (1) entrants will foster goodwill throughout their local religious communities as they coalesce support to prepare and submit their portfolio; and (2) this broadcast event offers a compelling reason for people to watch something other than football. Isn't it about time religious leaders got serious about recruitment of pastors and other religious staff, and finally started using contemporary practices and technologies to do so?

“God” has no prime time religious slot on any major broadcast or cable network, but professional and collegiate football jointly have Sunday, Monday, Thursday, Friday and all day Saturday. That's a lot of football, Amen! **Again, isn't it about time religious leaders got serious about recruitment of pastors and other religious staff, and finally started using contemporary practices and technologies to do so?** Sadly, here's the problem, when it comes to the “big picture” of implementing God's “Golden Rule,” religions will NEVER organize to mount and implement the

proposed Steps 1, 2, and 3 above because religions have a documented history of fighting each other and killing each other, *but never working together*.

RELIGIOUS RECRUITMENT – THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE

Recruitment is unequivocally a major factor for any organization to flourish, which is especially true for football, and an absolute necessity in a religious environment where churches are perpetually closing and attendance continues to shrink. Churches, like football, must place their “blue ribbon” players on the front line to market, promote, administer, and provide leadership to advance religious doctrine and programs.

As detailed in Matthew 28:19, Jesus told his disciples, “I will make you fishers of men.” Acting as a coach, Jesus gave assignments to each disciple, with their combined mission being, “Go and make **more** disciples from every nation in the world.” Sadly, organized religion clearly lost sight of this simple mission, and instead, established bureaucratic networks solely designed to administer religious dogma and conflicting religious paradigms. Deal with it: Christians, Jews, Muslims, Mormons, Jehovah Witness, etc. will NEVER agree, and all organized religions created self-sustaining bureaucracies to maintain their dissension toward each other!

For many local churches, a bishop or another position in authority selects the pastor, typically from *the good old boy network*. Based on the frequency of allegations of sexual abuse, pastors are often selected without a criminal background check or such information is ignored. Instead, churches should consider using a scientific selection tool, such as the Uniform Guideline on Employee Selection (UGES), which requires candidates to validate – before hire – a demonstrated proficiency to actually perform the posted essential job functions. For example, the “Pastor Recruitment and Selection Matrix” below requires candidates to possess twenty-(20) specific skills, knowledge, or proficiencies, and equally important, standards are established to accurately and objectively measure and validate the empirical (factual) existence of proficiencies manifest by each candidate. *The “good old boy network” will not, and cannot circumvent the veracity required to complete this proposed evaluation process.*

PASTOR RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION MATRIX

| SKILL, KNOWLEDGE, OR PROFICIENCY (Essential Job Functions) | | STANDARD | CANDIDATE A | CANDIDATE B | CANDIDATE C |
|--|-----------------|--|---|---|---|
| | | | Does the candidate possess and present evidence of proficiency? | Does the candidate possess and present evidence of proficiency? | Does the candidate possess and present evidence of proficiency? |
| 1. | Bible Knowledge | Detail 5 specific Old Testament scriptures involving challenges faced by women. Detail 5 specific New Testament scriptures involving challenges | | | |

| | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | | faced by people in need. | | | |
| 2. | Altruism | Describe 5 specific acts of personal altruism: 3 within the church; and 2 outside of the church | | | |
| 3. | Gregarious | Describe 5 specific acts of being personally gregarious: 3 within the church; and 2 outside of the church | | | |
| 4. | Interpersonal Skills | Detail problem resolution between: (1) spouses; (2) racial hostility; (3) age; (4) church staff; and (5) youth | | | |
| 5. | Fiscal Management | Detail 3 specific acts of fiscal management: (1) eliminating a budget deficit by percent and amount; (2) increasing planned giving by percent and amount; and (3) third-party fund raising by percent and amount | | | |
| 6. | Leadership | Detail 3 specific act of personal leadership: (1) community based; (2) politically based; and (3) mental and/or physical health-based | | | |
| 7. | Counseling | Without violating any previously established agreements of privacy or non-disclosure agreements, detail where, when, and how you personally and successfully counseled parishioners regarding: (1) marriage; (2) substance abuse; (3) criminal acts; and (4) loss of life/death. | | | |
| 8. | Creative | Detail 3 specific creative events within the church; and 3 specific creative events outside of the church / Include what was accomplished that did not previously exist | | | |

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| 9. | Multi-cultural | Detail 3 specific acts of having personally promoted, installed, and maintained multi-cultural awareness: (1) community-based; (2) politically-based; and (3) religion-based | | | |
| 10. | Ecumenical | Detail 3 specific events where you personally promoted, then successfully established, and currently maintain unity with other denominations, religions, or churches | | | |
| 11. | Visionary | Detail 3 specific "original and innovative" events within the church; and 3 specific "original and innovative" events outside of the church / Include what was accomplished that did not previously exist | | | |
| 12. | Technology | Detail 3 instances where you personally and successfully used technology to achieve strategic religious or church-based objectives / Detail the specific technology used, equipment (audio, video, tablet, desktop computer, server, platform (PC or Mac), operating system, software, etc. | | | |
| 13. | Preaching | Detail 3 instances when you were informed that your Sunday morning (worship service) sermon successfully empowered a parishioner to achieve his or her personal objectives | | | |
| 14. | Subject Matter Expertise (SME): Youth | Detail 3 specific events of leadership; and 3 specific events of participation | | | |
| 15. | SME: Adult | Detail 3 specific events of leadership; and 3 | | | |

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| | | specific events of participation | | | |
| 16. | SME: Seniors | Detail 3 specific events of leadership; and 3 specific events of participation | | | |
| 17. | SME: Women | Detail 3 specific events of leadership; and 3 specific events of participation | | | |
| 18. | SME: Seniors | Detail 3 specific events of leadership; and 3 specific events of participation | | | |
| 19. | SME: Music | Detail 3 specific events of leadership; and 3 specific events of participation | | | |
| 20. | SME: Stewardship | Detail 3 specific events of leadership; and 3 specific events of participation | | | |

Coast to coast, churches need to recruit for the best religious team possible, but it's problematic for churches to accept any kind of person who walks-in, joins, and becomes a member. These "walk-ons" are often completely unknown, and in the absence of vetting, there's absolutely no guarantee they can make a positive contribution to the church. Churches should use the UGES, because it's strategically designed to achieve the church's clearly established and well-communicated objectives.

As far as skills go, nobody wants disciples who function only as "bench warmers" or spectators, people who for whatever reason fail to contribute to the church's ministry. Matthew 5:13 (KJV) tells us,

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his Savior, where shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men."

With no standards or expectations churches can easily be filled up with salty Christians who are really good people, but good for absolutely nothing. The United Methodist Church has closed over 5,000 churches in the last 20 years; conversely, during this same time professional football teams and colleges expanded existing stadiums or built new stadiums across America. When was the last time you heard of a NFL or NCAA Division I, II or III football program shutting down and selling the land? That's right, you don't.

A “clergy draft” does not exist, so the opportunity to “Thank, God!” for being drafted into the ministry with millions of fans watching on “live” television does not exist. Conversely, NFL and NBA drafts are a common practice, as are sporting awards programs such as the Heisman Trophy, Hall of Fame induction ceremonies, and more! **Football “self-promotes” its own importance, but religion does not; instead, it’s the theology of religion to remain in the back seat, and hopefully, someone will acknowledge its importance.**

THE BOTTOM LINE: RELIGIONS DON’T KNOW HOW TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN TALENT - With regard to recruitment, for football or religion, if you want greatness and excellence then you must recruit for greatness and excellence, which includes minorities and women. We’re proud America has top engineers, surgeons and lawyers, and likewise, America should also have the best clergy, pastors, and theologians.



Yes, the overwhelming majority of pastors make much less money than pro-football players, but no “get rich quick” pro-football players were paid as much as Floyd Mayweather (boxing) and Tiger Woods (golf) who, as reported by Forbes.com, rotated being ranked as the highest paid athletes in the world from 2001 to 2015. So, who cares, because God is not conducting recruitment to make pastors famous, wealthy, or the best entertainers. To circumvent the closing of churches, religious leaders must embrace progressive recruitment strategies, and establish and adhere to standards that support the growth of the church. This mean conducting recruitment in non-traditional ways, and eliminating race and/or sex based practices that are counterproductive, and not in keeping egalitarian principles.

The church must aggressively promote itself. Again, **football “self-promotes” its own importance through aggressive, well coordinated, multimedia marketing campaigns, but religion does not.** “FOOTBALL IS BETTER THAN RELIGION” because religious leaders and parishioners refuse to open the door to aggressive member recruitment and to proudly champion God’s glory. **Hallelujah!**

CHAPTER 2 – RELIGIONS FAIL TO MOTIVATE AND MAINTAIN COMPLIANCE

The much talked about, often pivotal halftime talk is typically the “real” starting point of the game, because it provides the compass and road map for ultimate success.

The Head Football Coach’s halftime speech is essentially a sermon, a very powerful sermon. The halftime talk is a sermon with a piercing dialogue that reaches down into the deepest areas and crevices of the minds of each athlete. For every football game in America there are two halftime speeches: one is for the team who is ahead in points, and the other is for the team who is behind on the scoreboard. Plus, in every instance, the halftime talk will go over game strategy and personnel assignments, or a Coach gives a stern, if not screaming motivational talk to play better, play smarter, with greater execution and follow-through, fewer mistakes, etc., whatever is necessary to motivate, to manipulate the team to win the game.

Both halftime speeches will have a component of motivation, with the scoreboard functioning as tangible evidence how much time remains and how many points are required to win. Typically, the team that is behind will hear the fire and brimstone sermon; although teams leading at halftime are often scolded for not having a larger lead, for missing tackles, for missing touchdown, for screwing up.

Not one coach in America gathers his highly trained team (i.e., congregation) of athletes into the locker room to be losers. As Paul writes in Ephesians 6:11 (KJV) - *Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.* God wants us to perform at our best to win, but everyone can’t win in football. Conversely, everyone can win through their faith in God.

Unfortunately, many churches fail because the Head Coach of the church, the pastor, fails to inspire, motivate, or manipulate the congregation to do and achieve great things for God! To make matters even more difficult, there are literally thousands of distractions that make it very easy to ignore both the church and the pastor.

Some athletes have so many distractions in their personal life that it hinders their ability to play and perform at their full potential. No doubt, these distractions cause penalties and end up hurting the entire team. As football fans know, it is hard to win games if you rack up too many penalties. In life, which is not a game, one person can ruin it for others, and the penalties can be far more harsh than football, such as: foreclosures, divorce, rape, murder, and incarceration. Unfortunately, parishioners are not typically suspended or terminated for hurting the church.

When parishioners cause the loss of members, financial setbacks and turmoil, poor programming, chaos and internal conflict, it takes years to repair this damage. Sometimes the damage is so great it’s never repaired, and a church is crippled for life. Godless, cantankerous and adversarial non-Christian behaviors cause many churches to close.

There are many potential losses recorded in the Bible, such as:

Luke 8:5-15 (KJV)

⁵ A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.

⁶ And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture.

⁷ And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it.

⁸ And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

⁹ And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be?

¹⁰ And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.

¹¹ Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

¹² Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

¹³ They on the rock *are they*, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

¹⁴ And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

¹⁵ But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience.

America's halftime locker rooms are full of good soul athletes. The very best speeches produce those victories. Successful college coaches like Tom Osborne, Eddie Robinson, and Nick Saban have given decades of stellar halftime sermons that produced college championships and inspired NFL-bound athletes to accomplish even more in the NFL. The best coaches in NFL, such as Don Shula, George Halas, and Tom Landry know what to say, how to say it, and when to convey their football homily to inspire the team. Note the following examples:

"Winning is not a sometime thing; it's an all the time thing. You don't win once in a while; you don't do things right once in a while; you do them right all of the time. Winning is a habit."

Legendary Green Bay Packers Coach Vince Lombardi

"And the last thing he said to me -- "Rock," he said - "sometime, when the team is up against it -- and the breaks are beating the boys -- tell them to go out there with all they got and win just one for the Gipper."

Notre Dame Football Head Coach Knute Rockne

“SEC. Florida State. Florida State. Your brothers. Your team. Your heartbeat ... We some dogs. We ain’t no puppies. We some dogs. Wide receivers, y’all cannot be stopped. The whole game. We got the best running back in the whole damn league. And we got a quarterback that’s gonna toss that thing. O-line, wake up! Y’all been there before ... Get right. Wake up, man!”

Florida State Head Coach Jameis Winston
his halftime speech to bounce back from a
28-13 pre-halftime deficit to defeat Ole Miss 45-34

WINNERS THINK LIKE WINNERS WITH A “ZIKLAG MENTALITY”

1 Samuel 30:1 (KJV)

¹ And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire;

When David was at Ziklag, the Amalakites invaded David's camp with 600 men. When David and his army returned from fighting with the Philistines, they found their camp burned down and their wives and children taken hostage by the Amalakites. David's men turned on him, blamed David for leaving their camp without enough protection, the loss of their families, and threatened to stone him to death.

Instead of feeling depressed, guilty, or defeated David put his faith in and sought courage and strength through his belief in God. Accordingly, a “renewed” David returned to the Amalekites, and here’s what happened, as chronicled in **1 Samuel 30:18-19 (KJV)**:

¹⁸ And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives.

¹⁹ And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor any *thing* that they had taken to them: David recovered all.



Winners think like winners; and equally important, winners surround themselves with people with a mutual “Ziklag commitment” to win. The essence of the halftime speech is to motivate the team to get-in-there or to get-back-out-there and win! To prove to each other and to themselves they are men with great ability and confidence, winners and not quitters. Even Hollywood enjoys getting into this act.

In Oliver Stone’s “Any Given Sunday,” released in 1999 Oscar winner Al Pacino (Scent of a Woman), portrays Coach Tony D’Amato. With a raspy voice and a diminishing career, D’Amato broke down the game of football to motivate his team (WARNING: Explicit language):

I don't know what to say really. Three minutes to the biggest battle of our professional lives all comes down to today. Either we heal as a team or we are going to crumble. Inch by inch, play by play, 'till we're finished. We are in hell right now, gentlemen, believe me, and we can stay here and get the shit kicked out of us or we can fight our way back into the light. We can climb out of hell, one inch, at a time. Now, I can't do it for you. I'm too old. I look around and I see these young faces and I think I mean I made every wrong choice a middle age man could make. I uh.... I pissed away all my money believe it or not.

I chased off anyone who has ever loved me, and lately, I can't even stand the face I see in the mirror. You know, when you get old in life things get taken from you. That's, that's part of life, but you only learn that when you start losing stuff. You find out that life is just a game of inches. So is football, because in either game, life or football, the margin for error is so small. I mean one half-step too late or too early you don't quite make it. One half-second too slow or too fast and you don't quite catch it. The inches we need are everywhere around us. They are in every break of the game every minute, every second.

On this team, we fight for that inch. On this team, we tear ourselves and everyone around us to pieces for that inch. We CLAW with our finger nails for that inch, 'cause we know when we add up all those inches that's going to make the fucking difference between WINNING and LOSING, between LIVING and DYING. I'll tell you this in any fight it is the guy who is willing to die who is going to win that inch. And I know if I am going to have any life anymore it is because, I am still willing to fight, and die for that inch, because that is what LIVING is - the six-inches in front of your face. Now, I can't make you do it. You gotta look at the guy next to you. Look into his eyes. Now I think you are going to see a guy who will go that inch with you. You are going to see a guy who will sacrifice himself for this team, because he knows when it comes down to it, you are gonna do the same thing for him. That's a team, gentlemen and either we heal now, as a team, or we will die as individuals. That's football guys. That's all it is. Now, whattaya gonna do?

As written by John Logan and Oliver Stone, Al Pacino’s “Inch By Inch” speech had less to do with putting X’s and O’s on a chalkboard, but more to do with elevating his “team” to think about what they want out of life, and how to fight for it – inch by inch.

Most importantly, to be a winner, you must think like a winner; and equally important, as demonstrated in the following exhibit, having a shared “team mentality” is the driving force for being successful.

RELIGIOUS ZEALOTS WILL KILL YOU TO MOTIVATE YOU AND OTHERS

On the other hand, there are some notable exceptions to the failure of religions to motivate and maintain compliance: **religious zealots!** Religious zealots are fanatical and uncompromising in pursuit of their skewed or extreme interpretation of religious and/or political dogma. Founded by Judas of Galilee, “**zealots**” (“zealotry”) were originally a political movement formed in 1st century to incite Jewish people to rebel against the Roman Empire and expel it from the Holy Land by force during the First Jewish–Roman War (66–70). Most importantly, religious zealots expertly used their zip, zap, zing, zest, and zeal to successfully motivate and compel their followers to do anything, to kill anyone *and* everyone to achieve their religious, political, social, and economic objectives. Religious zealots don’t care if killing innocent people are required to achieve their objectives. Religious zealots (Osama bin Laden) don’t care. Religious zealots (Constantine the Great) don’t care. Religious zealots (Jim Jones) don’t care.

MUSLIMS



Osama bin Laden

CHRISTIANS & JEWS



Constantine the Great

EVANGELISTS



Jim Jones

Extremist and fanatical Islam began in the 7th century with the creation of the Khawarij, a fanatical sect that broke away from both the Sunni and Shia traditions of Islam. The Kharijites developed extreme doctrines that separating them apart from both mainstream Sunni and Shi'a Muslims. The Kharijites were particularly noted for adopting a radical approach to Takfir, whereby they declared other Muslims to be unbelievers and therefore deemed them worthy of death. Notably, before

Christian fanatic rule started with the Roman Emperor Constantine I as Catholicism. The Crusades waged a “Holy War” to acquire and maintain Christianity’s theological and social control, which required conquering the Holy Land from the Muslims by force, and killing thousands of Jews. Jews had to be killed in the religious campaign because Jews established and practiced “**Zealotry**” to expel the Roman Empire from the Holy Land, which challenged the sole truth espoused by the Christian

In 1952, Jones became a student pastor in Sommerset Southside Methodist Church, but left because church leaders barred him from integrating Blacks into his congregation. Later, Jones witnessed a faith-healing service at a Seventh Day Baptist Church, and determined he could use such events to finance and accomplish his social goals. Soon, Jones became an American “cult” leader, communist, and an ordained Disciples of

his death, the Prophet Mohammed warned about a nascent Muslim community, a sect that would emerge from Iraq; its followers would pray, recite the Koran, call for *sharia* and invoke God in persuasive fashion. *Source: Sheema Khan, The Globe and Mail.com*

Church. *Source: "Sacred Fury: Understanding Religious Violence." By Charles Selengut.*

"When the crusaders captured Jerusalem in 1099, they killed Muslims, Jews, and native Christians indiscriminately". *Source: "Hell, Martyrdom, and War: Violence in Early Christianity." By Grant Shafer*

Christ pastor. Jones built Jonestown in Guyana, to create a "socialist paradise," a "sanctuary" from media scrutiny, and as a benevolent model of an ideal communist community. On November 15, 1978, Congressman Leo Ryan led a fact-finding mission to Jonestown to investigate allegations of human rights abuses. Jones' armed guards, the "Red Brigade," met Ryan at the airport, killed Ryan and four members of his entourage. Later the same day, 909 "zealots" of Jonestown, including 304 children, died of cyanide poisoning.

Conversely, football players, coaches, or fans who display too much "zeal" for the game where verbal or physical behavior is deemed unacceptable or abusive are benched, kicked-out of the game, or physically removed from the stadium. Football is civil. Religion is not. Football is better than religion.

THE BOTTOM LINE: RELIGIONS FAIL TO MOTIVATE AND MAINTAIN COMPLIANCE - Using the football halftime as an example, in order to achieve

maximum success, the pastor (priest, clergy, rabbi, etc.) must convey a dynamic message that will inspire the congregation before, during, and after the



Sunday morning service, at the Wednesday night Bible study, and throughout the week. Likewise, to inspire a football team of elite athletes, the football coach must be sincere in expressing the greater importance of how strong values and principles will define an individual's life not only as an athlete, but even after the days of competition come to an end. Most importantly, without regard to our religious faith or denomination, we belong to the same team, God's team.

CHAPTER 3

RELIGIONS FAIL TO PREPARE, TRAIN, AND INDOCTRINATE

Let's play ball!

A large part of football is not even played on the field. Some sports analyst and coaches contend that 90% of the game is actually played in the mind. In the book, *Mind Games*, Yogi Berra states that, "Ninety percent of the game is half mental." In this same masterpiece Mark McGwire is quoted as saying "The mind is a powerful thing and most people don't use it properly." Bruce Jenner adds, "You have to train your mind like you train your body." Imagine if the people sitting in the pews every Sunday had trained minds and were mentally tough like combating athletes.

One of the important facets of preparation in football is watching game film. Countless number of hours is dedicated to film of the next opponent as well as watching the home team's previous performance. This is where and how football teams learn to get better. Conversely, in order to overcome faith-based challenges, the religious leaders need to be equally effective in taking time to accurately study both religious and non-religious challenges, and subsequently design and implement result-oriented strategies.

However, football is a game, and the football experience is ultimately one-dimensional, because the "actual field of play" does not involve social challenges such as child care or domestic violence, or marriage counseling. Conversely, the field of play for faith-based challenges is far more robust as it includes every conceivable social, economic, and political challenge faced by human beings. Religious leaders are not preparing their congregations for a game; on the contrary, preparing people how to effectively manage life's challenges is far more important. So, why don't religious leaders do a better job with "prep"?

The world is full of examples of Satan's iconic stars, from local serial killers to world-conquering despots like Hitler. Satan and his team of demons are not shy or bashful by any measure in their destruction of youth, families, and all aspects of humanity. Unfortunately, instead of configuring and leading an effective religious team, a religious team that's united to compete and win against Satan, religions are disjointed into thousands of faiths, replete with demigods and false prophets, from Christians to Jews to Muslims and more, and even worse, they compete within and against each other. Football is better, because the object of the game is to "win." There's no such objective to "win" in religion. According to scripture, reaching "heaven" is routinely a goal after death, but given the overwhelming divisiveness of religious leaders and religious thought, securing "heaven on earth" is not a consensus. Again, football is better.

What does it mean to prepare? Have you ever noticed that at every high school, college and professional football game there is an ambulance present and a medical team ready to go? The parallels between football and Christianity are so close that no wonder Husker fans mimic a cult and worship-like relationship to this win or lose team, no matter how they perform.

Football’s training involves a daily and rugged routine that begins with two-a-day workouts, including early morning and mid afternoon sessions. These sessions will last between two and three hours, including a minimum of one hour of weight training that starts in the pre-season. Topping the day off, depending on the level (high school, college, or professional), will be the third or fourth or fifth meal strategically designed to fuel athletes, and keep them in tiptop shape. The most significant event religious leaders offer to routinely train their staff and parishioners is to hold quarterly, or more likely, an annual retreat or seminar on the virtues of a particular religious activity, like church benevolence, or how to manage the building fund.

Athletes preparing for the football season start with a pre-season training programs for both spring and summer. Training is goal oriented and measurable. Athletes will be trying to either gain or lose weight with appropriate development of muscle and physical dexterity. This pre-season training would be equivalent to children attending Sunday school every week and Vacation Bible School during the summer months designed to provide students with religious history and religious principles. Parents who do not enroll their children in Christian education programs place their children at-risk of being grossly unaware of how to use a relationship with God to stay anchored as they face life’s chaos and turmoil.

TRAINING 101: TRAIN AND INDOCTRINATE

**TELL THEM.
TELL THEM WHAT YOU TOLD THEM.
TELL THEM AGAIN.**

When my brother was pasturing in Atlanta, Georgia he picked-up this phrase: *“much prayer, much power; little prayer, little power, no prayer, no power.”* What could be worse than a youth becoming a young adult with no spiritual power? Here’s how a typical football coach prepares athletes for the upcoming season versus how some religions prepare, train and indoctrinate youth on religious history and principles.

| FOOTBALL TRAINING | | JEWISH (Conversion) Source: converttojewish.com < TANAKH / TORAH > | MUSLIM (Conversion) wikihow.com/Become-a-Muslim < THE QURAN > | CHRISTIAN (Conversion) Source:wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_denomination < THE BIBLE > |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| 1. | Pre-season Training – Spring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Two-a-day pre-season highly aerobic training camps ■ Daily / weekly all-season training ■ Daily / weekly all-season training | The Curriculum: 1. The Book of Genesis. 2. The Ten Commandments 3. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (the first paragraph of Judaism’s monotheistic creed, the “Shma.”) | Make sure you know what it means to be Muslim. The first and foremost rule of being a Muslim is believing that Allah is one and only one. Allah is the only god, the only creator and the Almighty. He is the only one you should be doing your good deeds for and the only who shall be | Training to become a “Christian” is not consistent, and varies significantly throughout the world, and within countries, and between states, between cities, and between each denomination. One size does not fit all, and each Bible is different in language, |

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|--|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Weight training ■ Sprint training ■ Endurance training ■ Playbook <i>and rules</i> training (mental and physical), including “Code of Conduct” that defines standards for “good sportsmanship” and a “moral compass” for both on and off the field of play ■ Pre-game study of opposing teams (film/video) | <p>Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (KJV)</p> <p>⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God <i>is</i> one LORD:</p> <p>⁵ And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.</p> <p>⁶ And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:</p> <p>⁷ And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.</p> <p>⁸ And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.</p> <p>⁹ And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.</p> <p>4. All converts read articles about the Shabbat (Sabbath) and major Jewish holidays, including Rosh Hashanah (New Years), Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), Sukkot (Tabernacles), Pesach (Passover), Shavuot (Pentecost), Chanukah (Festival of Lights), and Purim,</p> | <p>worshipped. There should be nothing stood beside His place. Allah's messenger Muhammad (pbuh) is the messenger who is believed as the last prophet who came down to Earth and there will never be any prophets after that. Islam considers itself to be the natural way of all creation. That is, Islam is the original, perfect state of being. So, when a person "converts" to Islam, he/she is actually reverting to their own original nature. Islam considers anyone who adheres to this state of being to be a Muslim, regardless of when or where she or he lived. For instance, Islam believes that Jesus was a Muslim, though he lived hundreds of years before Islam's historical founding.</p> <p>Allah, the Islamic name for God, refers to the same God worshipped by Christians and Jews (aka the "Abrahamic" God). Thus, Muslims revere the prophets of Christianity and Judaism (including Jesus, Moses, Elijah, etc.) and consider the Bible and Tanakh/Torah to be divinely-inspired.</p> | <p>text, and syntax.</p> <p>Christianity has not been a monolithic faith since the first century or Apostolic Age, if ever, and today there exist a large variety of groups that share a common history and tradition within and without mainstream Christianity.</p> <p>Christianity is the largest religion in the world (making up approximately one-third of the population) and the various divisions have commonalities and differences in tradition, theology, church government, doctrine, and language.</p> <p>The largest schism or division in many classification schemes is between the families of Eastern and Western Christianity. After these two larger families come distinct branches of Christianity.</p> <p>Most classification schemes list six (in order of size: Roman Catholicism, Protestantism, Eastern Orthodoxy, Anglicanism, Oriental Orthodoxy, and the Church of the East, which was originally referred to as Nestorianism but in modern times is embodied by the Assyrian Church of the East).</p> |
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| | | prior to the completion of the conversion process. | | |
| 2. | <p>FOOTBALL</p> <p>Pre-season Training – Summer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Two-a-day pre-season highly aerobic training camps ■ Daily / weekly all-season training ■ Daily / weekly all-season training ■ Weight training ■ Sprint training ■ Endurance training ■ Playbook <i>and rules</i> training (mental and physical), including “Code of Conduct” that defines standards for “good sportsmanship” and a “moral compass” for both on and off the field of play ■ Pre-game study of opposing teams (film/video) | <p>JEWISH</p> <p>Conversion to Judaism requires a period of study, a Proclamation of Commitment to the Jewish people (recited in front of three rabbis or professional practitioners of Judaism), supervised immersion in a ritual bath (mikveh), and, for men, circumcision (unless the male convert is already circumcised).</p> | <p>MUSLIM</p> <p>Read Islamic scripture. The Quran is the central religious book of Islam, believed to be the unadulterated word of God and the culmination of all previous Christian and Jewish scripture. Another very important religious scripture is the Hadith, the sayings and accounts of Muhammad. Hadith collections form the basis for much of Islamic law. Reading these writings will give you an understanding of the stories, laws, and teachings that make up Islamic belief.</p> | <p>CHRISTIAN</p> <p>Unlike Roman Catholicism, Protestantism is a general movement that has no universal governing authority. As such, diverse groups such as Adventists, Anabaptists, Baptists, Binitarians, Charismatics, Congregationalists, Evangelicals, Holiness churches, Methodists, Moravians, Pentecostals, Presbyterians, Reformed, and Unitarians (depending on one's classification scheme) are all a part of the same family but have distinct doctrinal variations within each group --</p> |
| 3. | <p>FOOTBALL</p> <p>Gain or Lose Weight / Increase muscle mass</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Two-a-day pre-season highly | <p>JEWISH</p> <p>Conversion to Judaism requires that all converts choose a Hebrew name for themselves, and that they commit to focus</p> | <p>MUSLIM</p> <p>Talk with an Imam. Imams are Islamic religious scholars who conduct religious services inside and outside the mosque</p> | <p>CHRISTIAN</p> <p>Lutherans see themselves not to be a part of the rest of what they call "Reformed Protestantism" due to radical differences in</p> |

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| | <p>aerobic training camps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Daily / weekly all-season training ■ Daily / weekly all-season training ■ Weight training ■ Sprint training ■ Endurance training ■ Playbook <i>and rules</i> training (mental and physical), including “Code of Conduct” that defines standards for “good sportsmanship” and a “moral compass” for both on and off the field of play ■ Pre-game study of opposing teams (film/video) | <p>on one of the many mitzvot (commandments) that Judaism teaches. Rabbi Bill and Rabbi Ken are happy to help converts choose a Hebrew name and special mitzvah.</p> | <p>(Masjid). Imams are chosen for their knowledge of Islamic scripture and their good character. A good Imam will be able to provide you with advice when deciding whether you're ready to devote yourself to Islam.</p> <p>Note that the description above applies to imams of the majority Sunni sect of Islam. Imams have somewhat different roles in the minority Shi'a sect.</p> | <p>sacramental theology and historical approach to the Reformation itself (both Reformed and Lutherans see their reformation in the sixteenth century to be a 'reforming' of the Catholic Church, not a rejection of it entirely). From these come denominations, which in the West, have independence from the others in their doctrine.</p> |
| 4. | <p>FOOTBALL</p> <p>Two-a-day workouts (early morning and mid-afternoon), each lasting two to three hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Two-a-day pre-season highly aerobic training camps ■ Daily / weekly all-season training ■ Daily / weekly all-season training ■ Weight training | <p>JEWISH</p> | <p>MUSLIM</p> <p>Say the Shahada. If you're absolutely sure you want to become a Muslim and fully submit to the will of God, all you need to do is recite the Shahada, a short oral declaration of faith. Be aware that once you have said the Shahada you are committed to following Islam for life. The words of the Shahada are "La ilaha illallah, Muhammadun rasulullah " This translates to "I testify that there is no other</p> | <p>CHRISTIAN</p> <p>The Eastern and Roman Catholic churches, due to their hierarchical structures, are not said to be made up of denominations, rather, they include kinds of regional councils and individual congregations and church bodies, which do not officially differ from one another in doctrine.</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sprint training ■ Endurance training ■ Playbook <i>and rules</i> training (mental and physical), including “Code of Conduct” that defines standards for “good sportsmanship” and a “moral compass” for both on and off the field of play ■ Pre-game study of opposing teams (film/video) | | <p>god but Allah, and Muhammad is God's messenger (prophet).</p> <p>By saying the Shahada, you become a Muslim. The first part of the Shahada ("La ilaha illallah") refers not only to deities from other religions, but also to earthly things which can take the place of Allah in your heart - wealth and power, for example.</p> <p>The second part of the Shahada ("Muhammadun rasulullah") is a recognition that the word of Muhammad is the Messenger of God. Muslims are required to live by the principles of Muhammad revealed in the Quran - the Shahada is a pledge to follow these principles.</p> <p>The Shahada must be said with sincerity and understanding to be binding. You can't become a Muslim just by pronouncing the words - the oral recitation is a reflection of belief that's held in the heart.</p> <p>You will never kill, lie, steal, or anything of the sort. In other words, you will follow the Islamic rules.</p> | |
| 5. | <p style="text-align: center;">FOOTBALL</p> <p>Learning the playbook.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">JEWISH</p> <p>Maybe reading the Tanakh/Torah</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">MUSLIM</p> <p>To become a legal member of the Muslim community, have</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">CHRISTIAN</p> <p>Maybe reading the Bible.</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Playbook <i>and rules</i> training (mental and physical), including “Code of Conduct” that defines standards for “good sportsmanship” and a “moral compass” for both on and off the field of play ■ Pre-game study of opposing teams (film/video) ■ Post-game study of each game (film/video) | | witnesses present at your recitation. Witnesses are not strictly required to become a Muslim - God knows all things, so a Shahada said alone, with conviction, will make you a Muslim in God's eyes. However, to become legally recognized by the Muslim mosque, you generally must make your Shahada in front of witnesses - two Muslims or an Imam (Islamic religious leader) who is authorized to certify your new faith. | |
| 6. | <p style="text-align: center;">FOOTBALL</p> <p>Two to four training meals (breakfast, lunch, afternoon, dinner, etc.).</p> | JEWISH | MUSLIM | CHRISTIAN |
| 7. | <p style="text-align: center;">FOOTBALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Daily / weekly all-season training | JEWISH | MUSLIM | CHRISTIAN |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Weight training ■ Sprint training ■ Endurance training ■ Playbook <i>and rules</i> training (mental and physical), including “Code of Conduct” that defines standards for “good sportsmanship” and a “moral compass” for both on and off the field of play ■ Pre-game study of opposing teams (film/video) ■ Post-game study of each game (film/video) ■ Ongoing assessment and fine-tuning of offense and defense as necessary | | <p>easiest way to learn is to attend a Mosque for the five daily prayers. Prayer should be a relaxing, enjoyable activity, but be aware that the five daily prayers are obligatory for all Muslims over the age of ten years. Take your time when praying. Rushing the prayer should be avoided in order to gain maximum benefit.</p> <p>Remember, prayer is a direct spiritual connection between you and the being who keeps your heart beating and who created the universe. It should bring serenity, happiness and peace. This will come with and improve with time. Avoid being excessive or ostentatious with your prayer - pray simply and humbly. Your initial goal is to establish a habit and make it an enjoyable experience.</p> <p>Structure your day around the five daily prayers. Make sure that you leave plenty of time for supplication (dua) after performing the obligatory prayers, as this is the way Muslims seek help from Allah. Try to adopt the habit of praying all the optional prayers as well. Pray to Allah for good judgement and success in life. However, keep two points in mind:</p> <p>First, you must perform the duties that Allah has required of you. It is not</p> | |
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| | | | <p>enough to merely pray for success - you must do what is necessary to achieve it. Second, have faith in Allah in all matters. Your material success is fleeting, but Allah is eternal - keep your devotion in Allah whether you are successful or not.</p> | |
| 8. | <p>FOOTBALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Daily / weekly all-season training ■ Weight training ■ Sprint training ■ Endurance training ■ Playbook <i>and rules</i> training (mental and physical), including “Code of Conduct” that defines standards for “good sportsmanship” and a “moral compass” for both on and off the field of play ■ Pre-game study of opposing teams (film/video) ■ Post-game study of each game (film/video) ■ Ongoing assessment and fine-tuning of offense and defense as necessary | JEWISH | <p>MUSLIM</p> <p>Perform Islamic obligations (Fard). Islam requires Muslims to fulfill certain obligations. These obligations are called "Fard." There are two kinds of Fard: Fard al-Ayn and Fard al-Kifaya. Fard al-Ayn are individual obligations - things every single Muslim must do if he or she is able, like praying daily and fasting during Ramadan. Fard al-Kifaya are community obligations - things that the community as a whole must do, even if every member doesn't do them. For instance, if a Muslim dies, some of the Muslims in the community must get together to say funeral prayers. It's not required for every individual Muslims to say the prayers. However, if no one says the funeral prayers, the whole community is at fault.</p> <p>Islamic belief also mandates the observance of Sunnah, lifestyle guidelines based on the life of</p> | CHRISTIAN |

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| | | | Muhammad which are recommended but not required for Muslims. | |
| 9. | <p>FOOTBALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Daily / weekly all-season training ■ Weight training ■ Sprint training ■ Endurance training ■ Playbook <i>and rules</i> training (mental and physical), including “Code of Conduct” that defines standards for “good sportsmanship” and a “moral compass” for both on and off the field of play ■ Pre-game study of opposing teams (film/video) ■ Post-game study of each game (film/video) ■ Ongoing assessment and fine-tuning of offense and defense as necessary | JEWISH | <p>MUSLIM</p> <p>Observe Muslim etiquette (Adab.) Muslims are required to live their lives in certain ways, avoiding some behaviors and adopting others.</p> <p>As a Muslim, you will keep the following habits (and others): Observe halal dietary practices. Muslims abstain from consuming pork, carrion, blood, and alcohol. Additionally, meat must be properly slaughtered by an authorized Muslim, Christian, or Jew.</p> <p>Say "Bismillah" ("In the Name of God") before meals. Eat and drink with your right hand. Practice proper hygiene. Refrain from non-essential interaction with the opposite gender. Remember that all forms of sexual activity outside the the bounds of marriage are forbidden in Islam. Married women must abstain from sex during the menstrual cycle. Study and follow the Islamic dress code, which places great emphasis on modesty.</p> | CHRISTIAN |
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| | FOOTBALL | JEWISH | MUSLIM | CHRISTIAN |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Daily / weekly all-season training ■ Weight training ■ Sprint training ■ Endurance training ■ Playbook <i>and rules</i> training (mental and physical), including “Code of Conduct” that defines standards for “good sportsmanship” and a “moral compass” for both on and off the field of play ■ Pre-game study of opposing teams (film/video) ■ Post-game study of each game (film/video) ■ Ongoing assessment and fine-tuning of offense and defense as necessary | | <p>Understand and embody the five pillars of Islam. Islam's Five Pillars are obligatory actions that Muslims must take. They represent the core of pious Islamic life. The</p> <p>Five Pillars are: Testimony of Faith (Shahada). You make when you become a Muslim by declaring that there is no God but ALLAH and Muhammad is his messenger. Performance the five daily prayers (Salat). Prayers are made throughout the day in the direction of the holy city of Mecca.</p> <p>Fasting during the month of Ramadan (Sawm). Ramadan is a holy month marked by prayer, fasting, and charity.</p> <p>Giving 2.5% of your savings to the poor (Zakat). It is a personal responsibility of Muslims to help those less fortunate.</p> <p>Making a pilgrimage to Mecca (Hajj). Those who are able are required to make the journey to Mecca at least once.</p> | |
| 11. | FOOTBALL | JEWISH | MUSLIM | CHRISTIAN |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Daily / weekly all-season training ■ Weight training | | <p>Believe in the six articles of Faith. Muslims have faith in Allah and his divine order even though it</p> | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sprint training ■ Endurance training ■ Playbook <i>and rules</i> training (mental and physical), including “Code of Conduct” that defines standards for “good sportsmanship” and a “moral compass” for both on and off the field of play ■ Pre-game study of opposing teams (film/video) ■ Post-game study of each game (film/video) ■ Ongoing assessment and fine-tuning of offense and defense as necessary | | <p>cannot be perceived by human senses. The six articles of faith mandate that Muslims must believe in:</p> <p>Allah (God). God is the creator of the universe and the only being worthy of worship.</p> <p>His angels. Angels are the unquestioning servants of God's divine will.</p> <p>His revealed scripture. The Quran is the perfect will of God as revealed to Muhammad by through the angel Gabriel (Christian and Jewish scripture is also considered holy, they were given from Allah but some or more of the content has already been changed).</p> <p>His messengers. God sent prophets (including Jesus, Abraham, and others) to preach his word on earth; Muhammad is the final, greatest prophet.</p> <p>The Day of Judgement. God will eventually raise all humans for judgement at a time known only to him.</p> <p>Fate. God has ordained all things - nothing occurs without his will or pre-knowledge.</p> | |
| 12. | <p style="text-align: center;">FOOTBALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Daily / weekly all-season training | <p style="text-align: center;">JEWISH</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">MUSLIM</p> <p>Continue to read the Qur'an. You can learn</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">CHRISTIAN</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Weight training ■ Sprint training ■ Endurance training ■ Playbook <i>and rules</i> training (mental and physical), including “Code of Conduct” that defines standards for “good sportsmanship” and a “moral compass” for both on and off the field of play ■ Pre-game study of opposing teams (film/video) ■ Post-game study of each game (film/video) ■ Ongoing assessment and fine-tuning of offense and defense as necessary | | <p>much from translations of the Qur'an. Some of these translations may be harder to understand than others. Abdullah Yusuf Ali and Pickthall are the two most common Qur'an translations. However, it's even better to seek guidance from people who are trained in the study of the Qur'an rather than simply relying on your own ability to interpret the Qur'an. Your local mosque will likely have people who will be more than willing to guide and assist you in learning more about Islam and many have "New Muslim" study circles which are often a good place to start. Be careful, but relaxed, about finding someone who you feel comfortable with and who you are convinced has enough knowledge in order to teach well.</p> <p>Many Muslims devote much time to memorizing the Qu'ran as it brings great reward. When your Arabic improves, start learning by heart some of your favourite surahs. These can then be recited during prayer or whenever you feel you need a lift.</p> | |
| 13. | <p style="text-align: center;">FOOTBALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Daily / weekly all-season training ■ Weight training | <p style="text-align: center;">JEWISH</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">MUSLIM</p> <p>Study Islamic Law and choose a school. In Sunni Islam, religious law is divided into four schools of thought.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">CHRISTIAN</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sprint training ■ Endurance training ■ Playbook <i>and rules</i> training (mental and physical), including “Code of Conduct” that defines standards for “good sportsmanship” and a “moral compass” for both on and off the field of play ■ Pre-game study of opposing teams (film/video) ■ Post-game study of each game (film/video) ■ Ongoing assessment and fine-tuning of offense and defense as necessary | | <p>Look into the different schools and choose the one that appeals most to you. Subscribing to a school will inform your interpretation of Islamic law as revealed in the primal sources of Islam [Quran and Sunnah] Note that all schools are equally valid. Although the Shariah may seem very strict at first, the laws and punishments are gifts from Allah to ensure a safe and fair society. Do your best to try to implement what you learn in your own life. The officially recognized schools are:</p> <p>Hanafi. The Hanafi School was founded by Imam Al A'dham Nu'man Abu Hanifa and is the most widely practiced school and has the most information available in English, it ranges from the widely secular Turks to the Ultra-Orthodox Deobandis and Barelvis. Most Hanafis live in the Indo-Pak subcontinent, Turkey, Eastern Iran, parts of Egypt and many Non-Muslim Majority countries Shafi'i.</p> <p>Shafi'i . The Shafi'i school was founded by Imam Abu 'Abdillah Muhammad Al-Shafi'i and is the second most populous school and is the majority in Egypt and East Africa as well as Yemen, Malaysia and Indonesia, The Shafi'i school is known for their complex legal</p> | |
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| | | | <p>system.</p> <p>Maliki. The Maliki school was founded by Imam Abu Anas Malik who was a student of Imam Abu Hanifa it is the majority school in North and North West Africa, as well as a reasonable following in Saudi Arabia. Imam Malik took his practices from the people of Madinah one famous Maliki scholar is Hamza Yusuf.</p> <p>Hanbali. The Hanbali school was founded by Imam Ahmad Ibn Hanbal and is practiced almost exclusively in Saudi Arabia, with some followers in the West. The Hanbalis place great emphasis on creed and ritual practice and it is considered the most conservative and strict.</p> | |
| 14. | <p>FOOTBALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Daily / weekly all-season training ■ Weight training ■ Sprint training ■ Endurance training ■ Playbook <i>and rules</i> training (mental and physical), including “Code of Conduct” that defines standards for “good sportsmanship” and a “moral | JEWISH | <p>MUSLIM</p> <p>Above all, be the best person you can be. No matter what may anger, sadden or upset you, your duty on earth is to be the best person you can be by serving Allah swt. Muslims believe that Allah created us to have a good life, and to be happy through our service to Him. Use your talents to help others and better your community. Be open-minded. Never do harm to anyone. Make it your mission to tell people about Islam, emphasizing that Islam</p> | CHRISTIAN |

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| | <p>compass” for both on and off the field of play</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pre-game study of opposing teams (film/video) ■ Post-game study of each game (film/video) ■ Ongoing assessment and fine-tuning of offense and defense as necessary | | <p>is a religion of peace. Like many religions, Islam advocates that its believers follow the "Golden Rule." Follow the advice of the prophet in the following Hadith:</p> <p>"A Bedouin came to the prophet, grabbed the stirrup of his camel and said: O the messenger of God! Teach me something to go to heaven with it. Prophet said: "As you would have people do to you, do to them; and what you dislike to be done to you, don't do to them. Now let the stirrup go! This maxim is enough for you; go and act in accordance with it!"</p> | |
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In summary, the ultimate training objectives for both amateur and professional football are the same – *to successfully compete and win the game*. Conversely, as represented by the above matrix, despite come basic similarities in core Old Testament scripture, there’s no kind of regular exchange between any of the major religious doctrines to eliminate inconsistencies, contradiction, and duplication. In football, it’s an accepted practice to acquire (borrow, steal, etc.) plays and strategies from other teams. *Football teams learn from their mistakes and grow to become even more successful*. Equally important, football requires a team to physically engage an opposing team. Conversely, although religious rhetoric suggests egalitarian principles, unfortunately, it’s the history of religions to:

1. ignore doctrine from “competing” religions;
2. create new religions seemingly out of thin air, and
3. champion and actively engage in religious wars and race-based colonialism, such as the Doctrine of Discovery.

What? For many people, religion is less about a belief of God, and more about real estate, or in other words, whoever has the most land and the greatest number of religious converts for perpetual subjugation wins! **A core responsibility for people of faith is to prepare for an active life of conquest.** In this regard, the Doctrine of Discovery was promulgated by European monarchies in order to legitimize the colonization of lands outside of Europe. Simply put, it was and remains the policy of racist and ethnocentric White people to unilaterally conquer any territory not previously

inhabited by White people, and the conquest of religious souls is no different.

Again, racist and ethnocentric White people, who own and control all aspects of every major religion, have been trained to acquire and convert souls. Between the mid-fifteenth century and the mid-twentieth century, this idea and the subsequent arrogance of White privilege, allowed European entities to seize lands inhabited by indigenous peoples under the guise of discovery. In 1494, the Treaty of Tordesillas declared that only non-Christian lands could be colonized under the Discovery Doctrine.

In 1792, U.S. Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson declared that the Doctrine of the Discovery would extend from Europe to the infant U.S. government. The Doctrine and its legacy continue to influence American imperialism and treatment of conquered indigenous peoples. In this regard, the concept of “conquest” is where football (conquest of yardage) and religion (conquest of land) share the same paradigm for total dominance.



For the most part, as with other socio-political organizations (Democrats, Republicans, Independents, Liberals, Conservatives, etc.) religions are essentially incestuous by nature with Jews with Jews, Muslims with Muslims, Christians with Christians, etc. There will always be inconsistencies, contradiction, and duplication among and between religions, because religions do not share the same “training” objectives and religious beliefs. So, as a person of faith, if you never leave the “comfort zone” mandated by your religion, how do you effectively prepare for the enormous challenges that life throws at you?

THE BOTTOM LINE: GAME PREPARATION – RELIGIONS FAIL TO PREPARE, TRAIN, AND INDOCTRINATE - Football is simple and straightforward, and

lacks the complexities and contradictions of religion. In football, all teams within each division (high school, college, and professional) train similarly and play by the same rules. Each



football team has the same number of players, the same dimensions for the playing field, and the same number of coaches, etc. Therefore, the process and execution for “preparation” among all participants is synchronized, as is the ultimate objective – to win

a football game. Conversely, religions are disjointed and chaotic with different theologies, different training paradigms, conflicting rules, and discordant values. For religions, the location of the training environment is different (church, parish, temple, mosque, synagogue, etc.), and the “perception and meaning” of the ultimate expression of God’s love, “The Golden Rule” is trained, assessed and practiced differently. Ministers, pastors, priests, clergy, and rabbi do not share the same training knowledge or skills, and they are prohibited from using conflicting theology. Religions completely disagree on the fundamentals of life preparation, and sadly, religions never will agree.

CHAPTER FOUR

RELIGIONS FAIL TO TRAIN THE BODY AND MIND

In the book “Mind Gym” by Gary Mack and David Casstevens, football icon Joe Paterno is quoted, “The will to win is important, but the will to prepare to win is vital!” There’s an overwhelming consensus that the game of football cannot be played well unless athletes, coaches, and all support staff are properly prepared. To be “properly prepared” requires both mental and physical training and conditioning. According to legendary NFL Coach John Madden, the best football coach ever is Coach Bob Ladouceur of De La Salle High School. Coach Ladouceur told his players, “This game is not about football; That’s not what our program is about. It’s not about touchdowns. It’s not about the streak. It’s about when you’re done playing football and you’re in the community, you can be depended upon.”

IT TAKES TRAINING, DISCIPLINE AND COMMITMENT

Preparing his players during their training and whipping his players into shape Coach Ladouceur did so by conditioning players with discipline, commitment, accountability, making a perfect effort, and finally love. Ladouceur told this locker room of champions, “The last chapter is not about the championship. The last chapter is about brotherhood.” With one-hundred and fifty-one consecutive victories it’s fair to say this man knew how to motivate, teach and lead. Ladouceur’s words are classic, “Bring your A-Game and your A-Heart.” One thing is certain: words motivate, words lift up and they tear down and destroy. The game of football cannot be played without words.

You may ask, how can or why should a Christian be physically prepared?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (KJV)

¹⁹ 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?

²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

If you believe the human body is truly God’s vessel on earth as detailed in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, then consider the blatant CONTEMPT and HYPOCRISY women and men truly have for God by allowing God’s vessel to become overweight, obese, riddled with disease from smoking cigarettes, etc. If you lead a sedentary lifestyle you are NOT living your life in compliance with God’s words.

Religious commitment is a mindset, a state of mind that exists as the single most important aspect of religious belief. For the church to be successful, it should adopt a “football mentality” sooner than later. Again, across the U.S. membership in protestant churches has been declining for decades. Conversely, despite controversies such as “inflate gate,” or concussion protocols, or athletes accused or convicted of domestic violence or drug abuse, or not standing for the national anthem, nevertheless, for the most part, football programs are not declining and remain vibrant!

TRAIN TO GET AND STAY HEALTHY

For an organization to thrive, both the body and the mind must be healthy. Clearly, football cannot be played with an unhealthy body. In today's game if an injured player is 80% fit he probably won't play. Football was very different seventy-(70) or even twenty-(20) years ago. Football injuries were not always a viable reason not to play, as coaches asked players, "How bad do you want it? If you want it gentlemen, lets get out there and be like men and man-up and get in this game!"

The Bible states in Romans 8:37, "In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." A "football mentality" is all about conquering, dividing, smashing, destroying, winning and being victorious. So, what if you get hurt; who cares. With football: Winning is everything; so, did you win? With God: Without regard to the challenges and struggles you faced, did you do your best to win souls?

TRAIN TO KEEP YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

Football is not about love, forgiveness, compassion, peace, etc., such things we find in Galatians 5:22. Christianity has a lot to do with being nice, punctuated with the concept of turning the cheek found in Matthew 5:39 and Luke 6:29. Conversely, if you want to be nice, do not step onto a football field. Football players are not mean, but the objective of gridiron gladiators is the perpetual and consistent application of strategic, focused aggression, which is used to stop or make plays. Sadly, organized religions continue to fail because of the perpetual and consistent practice of subjectively picking, choosing, and interpreting what scriptures and religious dogma have value, or not.

Question: How can you keep your head in the "religious game" when the rules and objectives are not consistently applied?

Answer: You don't.

TRAIN TO MAINTAIN WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN

To get in mental and physical shape is hard work. Given the extremely high rates of obesity throughout the United States, very few people in the church spend time in the gym or engage in any athletic activity. Many male and female collegiate athletes retire with the end of their collegiate eligibility, and begin their non-athletic professional careers. Their jobs and family responsibilities appropriately consume their lives for the next twenty-five to thirty years. People recognize if you fail to adhere to your marriage vows and family responsibilities, then your family means nothing to and you are a person without principles.

Accordingly, for many retired athletes, getting back into "competitive" physical and mental shape is extremely hard work. The same challenge is true for people of faith, if you haven't cracked open a Bible in thirty-(30) years, it's foolish to believe the LGBT movement is aligned with the Bible, Quran, Tanakh/Torah, the Book of Mormon and other religious doctrine. People recognize if you fail to adhere to your religious beliefs, then your faith means nothing to and you are a person without principles.

TRAIN TO BE A TEAM PLAYER

Simply put, we should at least strive to be as willing to do unto others as we would have others to do for us.

TRAIN TO BE MORE THAN ONE-DIMENSIONAL

Football is offense versus defense. With religion, there is good versus evil. Life is not one-dimensional. Iconic world figure, founder and leader of the Methodist Church John Wesley pinned the phrase, "The world is my parish." *God's world theology is not one-dimensional.* Christians should be and need to be in both great physical and mental shape. We spend a lot of time in our churches praying for people who are sick with a broad spectrum of health issues. One of the names given to this group is the Sick-N-Shut-In. The sick-n-shut-in are in care centers, assisted living facilities and homebound individuals. We have pastors and evangelist laying hands on people with a variety of problems ranging from cancerous tumors to diabetes and more!

Between 50% and 70% of all hospital admissions originate from stress and poor physical health. With obesity being the largest tsunami hitting the doors of the church; obesity is smothering and choking the church's health. *Isn't it about time every local church take a leadership role to fight obesity?*

WHAT'S ON YOUR TRAINING TABLE?

When it comes to praising God, every day should be "Game Day," and not just Sunday. In this regard, organized religions should have an advantage over football, but unfortunately, football is available 24/7/365 via television, cable, satellite, radio, Internet, and print. College and professional football is NOT seasonal, but marketed throughout the entire year! Conversely, given the absence of a vibrant media relations campaign, there's really no compelling reason to engage in religious activities except on Sundays and to attend pray night every Wednesday. **Why haven't organized religions "trained" the masses to get into "religious" shape?**

PRAYER IS NOT ENOUGH. PRAYER IS NEVER ENOUGH!

We frequently had family races. For example, my father and my older and younger brothers, who were 22 and 18 years of age, had a foot race from telephone pole to telephone pole in front of the church parsonage in Chicago, Illinois. Age is not an excuse. I ran track in high school and college, and continue to do so as a nationally ranked masters athlete [<http://www.tripoetry.com/Fitness/awards.htm>]. In 1973, at 45 years of age, my father took second place behind me, and my younger brother finished third. Like me, my younger brother was not a slouch in track, having posted collegiate times of 10.5 for 100 meters, 21.5 for 200 meters and 47.5 for 400 meter. We held family races over many decades, which would often include our very competitive mother (gender was not an excuse either).

So, what was my father’s secret? My father maintained a regular exercise routine and trained his body and mind throughout his entire life. For over sixty-years my father was the synthesis of the best of football merging with the scriptures of the Holy Bible. Even twenty years after my father retired, at 82 years young he still walked three miles or more no less than three or four days each week. To match my father’s pace, we would often have to jog to keep up with him. Without regard to whether we won or lost, my mother and father, my primary role models, consistently taught me, and my brothers, to always do our best, to maintain our discipline and commitment to our values and principles, and most importantly, to use our training in actual practice.

Training has little value unless you take time to validate what you’ve learned (your acquired proficiencies) in actual practice or competition. You’re welcome to pray five times a day or more, but as a person of faith, and without regard to whether or not you’re Christian, Jewish, Muslim, or whatever, **if you never engage in acts of stewardship to test and validate your belief:**

1. How do you validate [prove] YOUR commitment to God?
2. How do you validate [prove] YOUR commitment to YOUR religious beliefs?
3. How do you validate [prove] YOUR commitment to altruism and egalitarian principles?
4. How do you validate [prove] YOUR commitment to “The Golden Rule” (Luke 6:31), and to value everything God created (earth, animals, etc.).

Well?

Prayer can only serve as a precursor to “performance” and “achievement.” Consider the typical training, performance, and achievement paradigm for football presented below.

| FOOTBALL TRAINING REGIME (High School / College / NFL) | PERFORMANCE & VALIDATION 2015 NFL Denver Broncos Won / Loss Record | | | ACHIEVEMENT (RESULT) The Bottom Line! |
|---|---|---------------|---------------|---|
| | OPPONENT | RESULT | RECORD | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Two-a-day pre-season highly aerobic training camps ■ Daily / weekly all-season training ■ Weight training ■ Sprint training ■ Endurance training ■ Playbook <i>and rules</i> training (mental and physical), including “Code of Conduct” that defines standards for “good sportsmanship” and a “moral compass” for both on and off the field of play ■ Pre-game study of opposing | Baltimore Ravens | W 19-13 | 1-0 | WON - Divisional Playoffs (Steelers) 23-16 |
| | at Kansas City Chiefs | W 31-24 | 2-0 | |
| | at Detroit Lions | W 24-12 | 3-0 | WON - AFC Championship (Patriots) 20-18 |
| | Minnesota Vikings | W 23-20 | 4-0 | |
| | at Oakland Raiders | W 16-10 | 5-0 | |
| | at Cleveland Browns | W 26-23 (OT) | 6-0 | WON - Super Bowl 50 (Panthers) 24-10 |
| | Green Bay | | | |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--------------------|--|
| teams (film/video) ■ Post-game study of each game (film/video) ■ Ongoing assessment and fine-tuning of offense and defense as necessary ■ Repeat #1 thru #9 above | Packers | | | |
| | at Indianapolis Colts | L 24-27 | 7-1 | |
| | Kansas City Chiefs | L 13-29 | 7-2 | |
| | at Chicago Bears | W 17-15 | 8-2 | |
| | New England Patriots | W 30-24 (OT) | 9-2 | |
| | at San Diego Chargers | W 17-3 | 10-2 | |
| | Oakland Raiders | L 12-15 | 10-3 | |
| | at Pittsburgh Steelers | L 27-34 | 10-4 | |
| | Cincinnati Bengals | W 20-17 (OT) | 11-4 | |
| | San Diego Chargers | W 27-20 | 12-4 | |
| | Pittsburgh Steelers (6) | W 23-16 | 1-0 | |
| | New England Patriots (2) | W 20-18 | 2-0 | |
| | STEP 1 In football, "prayer" is akin to the objective to practice both physically and mentally, which is necessary in order to successfully perform at "Step 2." | STEP 2 In football, the successful application of training (i.e., prayer) is demonstrated by the "performance" of the team and individual players in measured activities that determine a clear winner or a loser. | | |
| PRAYER | PERFORMANCE | | ACHIEVEMENT | |

Clearly, in football, it's just not enough to simply practice, or to just play the game. For all competitive sporting events, the bottom line for every team and individual is: *Did you win?* Yes, as represented below, as a career athlete in track and field, my brother, Rev. Dr. Wayne M. Reynolds used discipline, commitment, and training principles he acquired and developed from athletics to guide his performance and achievement paradigms for his *ministry*.

| TRAINING (Indoor / Outdoor Track) | PERFORMANCE & VALIDATION | ACHIEVEMENT The Bottom Line! |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Year-round base training run of 3 miles on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays; or Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays | Junior High School weekly outdoor track season meets High School city-wide weekly outdoor track season meets College weekly indoor and outdoor | In summary, as represented by the graph below, Wayne Reynolds has competed in 83 USATF sanctioned events, and has placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in 95% of all of his races. |

| <p>2. Sprint training for 100m, 200m, and 400m</p> <p>3. Strength training with weights, hills, stairs, etc.</p> <p>4. Technical training received from coaches and via personal initiative</p> <p>Throughout my life, my weekly base-training for track events (100m, 200m, 400m) added over 20,000 miles on his physique, and his base-training regime for road races (5k, 10k, etc.) and various multi-sporting events added nearly another 10,000 miles.</p> | <p>track season meets</p> <p>JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL [Grades 7 – 9]: Lettered Freshman Year</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL [Grades 10 – 12]: Wichita Heights High School Track Records: 880 Yard Relay 1:30:1 Mile Relay 3:21:1 Lettered Freshman Year</p> <p>1970, Wichita Track Club, High Jump 3rd place 1970, Wichita Track Club, High Jump 3rd place 1970, Wichita Track Club, High Jump 2nd place 1970, Wichita Track Club, 440 Yard Dash 3rd place 1970, Wichita Track Club, 440 Yard Dash 1st place 1970, Wichita Track Club, 100 Yard Dash, 1st place 1970, Wichita Track Club, 100 Yard Dash, 1st place 1970, Wichita Track Club, 220 Yard Dash, 1st place 1970, Wichita Track Club, 440 Yard Dash, 1st place 1971, Southwestern College Invitational (S.C.I), Mile Relay 1st place 1971, Southwestern College Invitational (S.C.I), 880 Relay 1st place 1971, Eastern City League Meet, Mile Relay 1st place 1971, Eastern City League Meet, 440 Yard Dash 1st place 1971, Eastern City League Meet, 880 Yard Relay 1st place 1972, West High Invitational, 440 Yard Dash 3rd place 1972, West High Invitational, Mile Relay 3rd place 1972, Sophomore City Championships 440 Yard Dash 1st place 1972, Southwestern College Invitational (S.C.I), Mile Relay 1st place 1972, Southwestern College Invitational (S.C.I), 880 Relay 1st</p> | <table border="1" data-bbox="1015 193 1429 451"> <thead> <tr> <th>EVENT</th> <th>NUMBER</th> <th>PERCENT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st</td> <td>43</td> <td>51.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd</td> <td>21</td> <td>25.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd</td> <td>15</td> <td>18.07</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4th</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5th</td> <td>2</td> <td>2.41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6th</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7th</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In addition to track events, Wayne Reynolds has also competed in several 5k, 10k, 20k events, a vertical marathon, and various multi-sporting events. Wayne Reynolds as also trained, performed and achieved success coaching and officiating.</p> <p>Track Coach: Boys Town USA and Omaha Central High School in Omaha, NE; and Lincoln Northstar in Lincoln, NE; Bellevue Breeze Track Club, Bellevue, NE</p> <p>Football Coach: Boys Town USA, Omaha, NE</p> <p>Basketball Coach: Boys Town USA, Omaha, NE</p> <p>NSAA Track Official: 1998 to present, Nebraska State High School Athletic Association</p> <p>USATF Track Official: 2006 to present, United States Track and Field Association</p> <p>Wayne Reynolds is a career athlete, and actively participates in track, cycling, and rollerskating events throughout the United States.</p> <p>Wayne Reynolds also enjoys the benefits of living a healthy and fit lifestyle, and he welcomes sharing his insight whenever requested.</p> | EVENT | NUMBER | PERCENT | 1 st | 43 | 51.80 | 2 nd | 21 | 25.30 | 3 rd | 15 | 18.07 | 4 th | 1 | 1.20 | 5 th | 2 | 2.41 | 6 th | 1 | 1.20 | 7 th | 0 | 0 |
|--|--|---|-------|--------|---------|-----------------|----|-------|-----------------|----|-------|-----------------|----|-------|-----------------|---|------|-----------------|---|------|-----------------|---|------|-----------------|---|---|
| EVENT | NUMBER | PERCENT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 st | 43 | 51.80 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 nd | 21 | 25.30 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 rd | 15 | 18.07 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 th | 1 | 1.20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 th | 2 | 2.41 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 th | 1 | 1.20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 th | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| | <p>place 1973, Kansas State Indoor, Mile Relay 3rd place 1973, Kansas State Championships, 880 Relay, 2nd place 1973, Kansas State Championships, Mile Relay 3rd place 1973, Wichita State University Relays, 880 Yard Relay, 2nd place 1973, Wichita State University Relays, Mile Relay, 2nd place 1973, Kansas State Regional Championships, 880 Yard Relay 1st 1973, Kansas State Regional Championships, Mile Relay 1st 1973, South High Invitational, Mile Relay 1st place 1973, Heights Invitational Mile Relay, 1st place 1974, Kansas State Regional Championships, 440 Yard Dash, 3rd place 1974, Kansas State Regional Championships, Mile Relay 2nd place 1974, South High Invitational, 440 Open, 3rd place 1974, Heights Invitational 440 yard dash 2nd place 1974, Heights Invitational Mile Relay, 2nd place 1974, Heights Invitational 400 Yard Relay, 2nd place 1974, Campus Invitational 440 Yard Dash, 2nd place 1974, Campus Invitational Mile Relay, 1st place 1974, Intra-squad Decathlon Champion</p> <p>COLLEGE FOOTBALL 1974, Cowley County Junior College (Football, Running Back)</p> <p>COLLEGE TRACK 1977, NCAA Nationals - 1600 Meter Relay Team 1978, NCAA All American 4x100 Meter Relay Team, 5th place Note: Played Football Freshman year of college/half of Sophomore year: 1974-76. Note: <i>College Conference of</i></p> | |
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|--|--|--|
| | <p><i>Illinois and Wisconsin Conference Championships</i> 1977, CCIW Conference Championships, Mile Relay 1st place 1977, CCIW Conference Championships, 440 Yard Dash 2nd place</p> <p>1977, North Central College Invite, Mile Relay 1st place 1977, Dr. Keeler Invitational, Mile Relay 1st place 1977, Wheaton Invitational, Mile Relay 1st place 1977, Chicagoland Championships, Mile Relay 1st place 1978, Chicagoland Championships, Mile Relay 1st place 1978, Wheaton Invitational, Mile Relay, 1st place 1978, Dr. Keeler Invitational, Mile Relay 1st place 1978, North Central College Invite, Mile Relay 1st place 1978, CCIW Conference Championships, 440 Yard Relay 2nd place 1978, CCIW Conference Championships, Mile Relay 2nd place 1978, Eastern Illinois University Invitational, Mile Relay 3rd place 1978, Eastern Illinois University Invitational, 440 Yard Relay 2nd place 1978, NCAA Nationals, 400 Meter Relay, 5th place/All American</p> <p>College All-American Status: Yes</p> <p>OPEN/MASTERS: 1983, Oregon State Games, 400 Meters 3rd place 1988, Cornhusker State Games, 200 Meters 1st place 1988, Cornhusker State Games, 400 Meters 3rd place 1989, Cornhusker State Games, 200 Meters 2nd place 1989, Cornhuskers State Games, 100 Meters 2nd place 1989, Lincoln Track Club, 100</p> | |
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|--|---|--|
| | <p>Meters 1st place 1989, Lincoln Track Club, 400 Meters 2nd place 1989, Lincoln Track Club, 100 Meters 2nd place 1989, Lincoln Track Club, 200 Meters 1st place 1989, Cornhusker State Games, 400 Meters 1st place 1991, Cornhusker State Games, 200 Meters 3rd place 1996, Cornhusker State Games, 200 Meters 1st place 1997, Cornhusker State Games, 200 Meters 3rd place 1999, Cornhusker State Games, 100 Meters 3rd place 1999, Cornhusker State Games, 400 Meters 2nd place 1999, Cornhusker State Games, 200 Meters 1st place 2001, Cornhusker State Games, 400 Meters 1st place 2001, Cornhusker State Games, 200 Meters 1st place 2005, State Games of America, Colorado Springs, Co., 200 meter, 4th place – Age 45-49, 26.83 2005, Cornhusker State Games, 200 Meters 2nd place, 26.50 2005, Mid America Masters Championships, 60 Meters 1st place 2005, Mid America Masters Championships, 200 Meters 1st place 2006, Cornhusker State Games, 200 Meters 2nd place 2006, Cornhusker State Games, 100 Meters 1st place 2006, Nebraska Senior Games, 200 meter, 2nd place, 26.10 2006, Nebraska Indoor Championship, Lincoln, Neb., 60 meter, 8.10 2006, Nebraska Indoor Championship, Lincoln, Neb., 200 meter, 26.60 2006, Cornhusker State Games, Lincoln, Neb., 200 meter, 27.10</p> <p><u>2007 INDOOR</u> Did not participate due to hamstring injury. 2007 Trek to the Top - Omaha,</p> | |
|--|---|--|

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | <p>Nebraska - Vertical Marathon [40 stories straight up!]: 275th overall of 449 finishers; 11 minutes, 16 seconds [First-time participant in this kind of event]</p> <p>2007 OUTDOOR</p> <p>100 Meters – N/A 200 Meters – 26.57 400 Meters – No Way!!! Are you kidding?!</p> <p>Placed 3rd [26.57] in the prelims at the 2007 Senior Games in Louisville, Kentucky 2007, National Senior Games, 200 Meters, 6th place 4x100 Meter Relay, National Record [Alternate], 49.25 2007, Cornhusker State Games, 200 Meters 1st place</p> <p>Ruptured left Achilles tendon After 2nd outdoor track meet</p> <p>2011, Nebraska Senior Games, Kearney, Neb., Basketball Hot Shot, 1st Place 2014, Nebraska Senior Games, Kearney, Neb., Basketball Hot Shot, 1st Place 2015, Nebraska Senior Games, Kearney, Neb., Basketball Hot Shot, 1st Place 2016, Nebraska Senior Games, Kearney, Neb., Basketball Hot Shot, 1st Place 2011, Nebraska Senior Games, Kearney, Neb., Basketball Free Throw, 1st Place 2014, Nebraska Senior Games, Kearney, Neb., Basketball Free Throw, 1st Place 2015, Nebraska Senior Games, Kearney, Neb., Basketball Free Throw, 1st Place 2016, Nebraska Senior Games, Kearney, Neb., Basketball Free Throw, 1st Place 2016, Cornhusker State Games, Lincoln, Neb., Javelin, 2nd Place</p> | |
|--|---|--|

As documented above, the training, performance, and achievements of Rev. Dr. Wayne M. Reynolds' are solidly anchored to discipline and commitment, or in a single word, "consistency." How important is consistency in determining the likelihood of your success? In his 1996 autobiography, "Slaying the Dragon" world 200 meter and 400 meter record holder Michael Johnson said:

"The first thing you will need to reach that next level, that next peak, is consistency. I won't be the best businessman in the world (usually the most we can expect is far less than that), but I will approach the business world the way I run, with the same order and passion. I will set goals and make plans, work with discipline, and embrace pressure. I also think I'll probably be successful."

Michael Johnson

As athletes, we realize that when applied consistently, training works. As role models for many, we also realize the importance of providing solid training techniques and sound leadership. So, given the collapse of organized religion as documented previously in chapter 3:

1. **Why do organized religions** fail to consistently train (teach), perform, and achieve religious objectives as "defined by the word of God" in the Bible, Tora, Zabur (The Book of Psalms), Injil (The New Testament), Quran (Surahs), The Book of Mormon, etc.?
2. **Why do organized religions** establish objectives that mirror the blatantly aggressive and conquest-oriented practices of political regimes, such as the Doctrine of Discovery, which was promulgated by European monarchies in order to legitimize the colonization of lands outside of Europe?
3. **Why do organized religions** and unaffiliated "religious people" second-guess the so-called "word of God" or frequently "pick and choose" just how relevant the alleged "inspired words of God" are to them and to the rest of their flock?

Within each level of organized football (high school, college, professional) there is a consensus by all K-12 public schools, collegiate governing organizations (NCAA), and owners of professional NFL teams on the rules of the game; but organized religions do not share a common consensus or objective for training; because as established by First Council of Nicaea in AD 325, and the Second Council of Nicaea in AD 787, and all subsequent multi-denominational religious gatherings, there has never been any consensus on religious dogma. **Never.**

There has never been a consensus on religious dogma between Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Muslims, Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, and other religions groups. However, the one thing these White owned and White-privilege controlled religions do agree on is a sovereign right to wage war, to kill to achieve and maintain their religious dominance (i.e., real estate) and the so-called manifest destiny of "their" God.

Accordingly, consider the typical training, performance, and achievement paradigm for organized religions as presented below.

| RELIGIOUS TRAINING (Christians / Jews / Muslims / Mormons, etc.) | PERFORMANCE To acquire territory, and to (brainwash) reprogram souls | ACHIEVEMENT The Bottom Line! |
|--|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Study of the Bible. 2. Study of the Tawrat or Tanakh/Torah, and conducting related prayer. 3. Study of the Zabur: The Book of Psalms, and conducting related prayer. 4. Study of the Injil or Gospel or New Testament, and conducting related prayer. 5. Study of the Quran. 6. Study of the Book of Mormon, and conducting related prayer. <p>(Also see Chapter 2 for additional detail)</p> | <p>TYPICAL RELIGIOUS MEASURES:</p> <p>Option A: In compliance with the Doctrine of Discovery, the forced colonization of all territory and the corresponding genocide, oppression, slavery, or brainwashing of indigenous people outside of Europe.</p> <p>Option B: Orchestrating religious wars (Catholics, Muslims, Jews, etc.) in order to confiscate political control and religious territory.</p> <p>Option C: Conducting token missionary work in third-world developing countries while concurrently allowing poverty, racism, and discrimination to go unchecked and without restraint in ghetto areas throughout civilized/western nations.</p> <p>Option D: Limited measures. Blind obedience to narrowly defined religious dogma, with limited external acts of altruism, egalitarianism, or stewardship.</p> <p>Option E: No measures. Blind obedience to narrowly defined religious dogma, with no external acts of altruism, egalitarianism, or stewardship.</p> <p>ATYPICAL RELIGIOUS MEASURES (local, regional, and national):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many year-to-year religious acts were accomplished in compliance with the Ten Commandments? 2. How many year-to-year | <p>TYPICAL ACHIEVEMENT MEASURES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An increase in national or international membership (religious and/or political territory) with a corresponding increase in operating budget (wealth). 2. Doing absolutely nothing, because with religion, the pinnacle of religious achievement is not of this world, but can only be achieved in death and subsequent ascension to heaven (or hell, for people who worship the devil). <p>ATYPICAL ACHIEVEMENT MEASURES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Universal religious enlightenment as validated by an end to all wars; elimination of all poverty, racism, and discrimination; and unequivocal commitment to religious beliefs, altruism, egalitarian principles, “The Golden Rule” (Luke 6:31), and respect for everything created by God. 2. Pinnacle acts of national and international stewardship that validate an unequivocal commitment to God. 3. Pinnacle acts of national and international stewardship that validate an individual’s unequivocal commitment to religious beliefs, altruism, egalitarian principles, “The Golden Rule” (Luke 6:31), |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | <p>religious acts were accomplished in compliance with the Golden Rule?</p> <p>3. How many year-to-year religious acts were accomplished in compliance with the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12 and Matthew 5:11-12.</p> | <p>and respect for everything created by God.</p> |
|--|---|---|

Do you see the problem? No? Simply put, football is a game, and players are strategically trained to win - within the rules – in a series of games, which culminate in an ultimate championship game that’s highly publicized and broadcast in “prime time” nationally and internationally. Conversely, organized religion is not a game, and “believers” are not strategically trained to win “souls” - within the rules of their “proprietary” religious dogma, or equally important, in a synchronized unison with competing religious dogma.

Plus, among organized religions there is no national event of ultimate achievement like a “Super Bowl,” nor is there an international event of ultimate achievement like the Olympics. Again, with religion, the pinnacle of religious achievement is not of this world, but can only be achieved in death and subsequent ascension to heaven (or hell, for people who worship the devil).

Clearly, the “theology” of football is based on winning in the here-and-now, in this world; and football has established its own strategies to aggressively promote, recognize, and reward itself throughout all aspects of society, from public education to business, among all cultures and ethnic groups, and via all communication platforms (print, broadcast television, radio, and cable, and internet and social media).

FACT: As reported by Nielsen, except for the M*A*S*H* (television) finale in 1983, the twenty most (from 86 million to 115 million viewers) watched TV broadcasts in the United States have all been Super Bowl championships.
Source: Wikipedia.com

QUESTION: Given the extremely high concentration of viewers for the Super Bowl, why haven’t Christian, Jewish, and Muslim leaders produced and broadcast “Super Bowl” commercials to solicit new members to their flock? Yes, for 2016, the average cost of a 30-second “Super Bowl” commercial was \$4 million, but it’s completely wrong to think this cost is prohibitive to Christians, Muslims, and Jews.

FACT: The Roman Catholic Diocese of Dallas paid \$30.9 million in 1998 to twelve victims of one priest. In July 2003 the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Louisville paid \$25.7 million to "settle child sexual-abuse allegations made in 240 lawsuits naming 34 priests and other church workers." In 2003 the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston also settled a large case for \$85 million with 552 alleged victims (Source: Wikipedia). So, given that the Catholic Church clearly has the money, why doesn’t the Catholic Church spend a meager \$4 million for a

Super Bowl commercial to re-brand (i.e., to re-train the minds of existing members) and promote (train) potential members to a new and very positive Catholic paradigm?

In 2004, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange settled nearly 90 cases for \$100 million. In April 2007 the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon agreed to a \$75 million settlement with 177 claimants and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle agreed to a \$48 million settlement with more than 160 victims. In July 2007 the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles reached a \$660 million agreement with more than 500 alleged victims, in December 2006, the archdiocese had a settlement of 45 lawsuits for \$60 million. In September 2007 the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego reached a \$198.1 million "agreement with 144 childhood sexual abuse victims." The Associated Press estimated the total from settlements of sex abuse cases from 1950–2007 to be more than \$2 billion (Source: Wikipedia). So, again, given that the Catholic Church clearly has the money, why doesn't the Catholic Church spend a meager \$4 million for a Super Bowl commercial to re-brand (i.e., to re-train the minds of existing members) and promote (train) potential members to a new and very positive Catholic paradigm?

Conversely, the "theology" of organized religions is to "hope" for a better "after life," but as far as living here-and-now, organized religions are primarily self-relegated to singularly train existing and potential members through:

1. worship services on Sunday morning (or Saturday);
2. Bible study on Wednesday night;
3. the perfunctory acknowledgement of faith-based religious holidays; and
4. occasional and perfunctory stewardship to those in need locally, elsewhere in the U.S., or internationally

For organized religions, no "prime time" (7:00/8:00 p.m. to 10:00/11:00 p.m. CST/EST) religious programs are broadcast on any major commercial over-the-air or cable-based television networks. Plus, a highly publicized media relations campaign ("game plan") does not exist to:

1. promote the synchronized unison of all religious organizations to rally around a "Super Bowl-like" deadline to accomplish something, such as to end all wars; or
2. to strategically eliminate all poverty, racism, and discrimination; or
3. to manifest an unequivocal commitment to religious beliefs, altruism, egalitarian principles, such as "The Golden Rule (Luke 6:31)," and respect for everything created by God.

THE BOTTOM LINE: RELIGIONS FAIL TO TRAIN THE BODY AND MIND –

Given the aforementioned assessment, the training “theology” for football prompts the team and individuals to constantly think as a winner, to constantly exert the highest level of physical performance synonymous with victory, and to win the ultimate championship game.



Conversely, the training “theology” for organized religion prompts the church and parishioners to think in compliance with their assigned religious dogma, but without any scheduled or dedicated commitment to physically engage in such activities, and without any synchronized unison among all religions to achieve the egalitarian society detailed in Christian, Jewish, Mormon, and Islamic scripture. Football is better than religion, because it embraces a winning strategy while organized religions embrace a losing strategy. **That’s a bummer.**

CHAPTER FIVE

RELIGIONS FAIL TO DEVELOP AND RETAIN COACHES

In the book *Mind Gym* by Gary Mack and David Casstevens, NFL Hall of fame Coach Vince Lombardi is quoted:

“The quality of a person’s life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field.”

It does the team and Coach no good if his staff is inept, uncommitted and inexperienced. The Coach must select the most qualified assistant coaches and coordinators to help win games. Such was the case with Jerry Moore in his 21st season as head coach of the Appalachian State University Mountaineers. Moore had an incredible 189-75 record, which included:

- Three FCS National Titles 2005, 2006 and 2007;
- 4-Time AFCA National Coach of the Year in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2009;
- 7-Time Southern Conference Coach of the Year; and
- The most wins in Southern Conference history.

To achieve these accolades requires having a very efficient coaching staff. Moore had obviously assembled an excellent staff of assistant coaches. Likewise, to be successful, the pastor’s immediate support team of leaders, chairpersons and program coordinators cannot be inept, uncommitted or inexperienced. The problem facing many pastors is an inability to actively recruit competent salaried staff and equally competent volunteer staff. Whether or not an individual or committee is responsible for conducting recruitment, here’s the bottom line: recruitment must be accomplished with clearly defined objectives and targeted results.

Frequently churches must unilaterally “appoint volunteers” from the ranks of membership to perform as leaders and program coordinators, and sometimes people are manipulated or railroaded into their positions, but doing so does not necessarily default to the “least objectionable choice.” As with football, sometimes “strong arm tactics” are necessary to enable people to realize their full potential, so this is a good thing. However, in some cases people volunteer, because no one else will. In a worst-case situation, religious zealots volunteer solely to pursue their own agenda, which ultimately threaten the pastor and/or the church. Churches do not need leaders who create confusion or controversy, or people who constantly complain and nag or mumble and grumble, because in the face of such negativity the church will not grow. Clearly, such on-goings would also kill a football program.

For professional football team owners and universities, losing seasons are ultimately a direct result of the coaching, not the players. Wouldn’t it be interesting if the pastor and senior leaders and program coordinators (the team) were judged with this same level of scrutiny? Would pastors perform differently if they were judged on acts of altruism and biblical standards of performance? Note the following:

PERFORMANCE-BASED PASTORAL COACHING

| ASSESSMENT | | 2017 | 2018 10% Improvement over 2017 | 2019 25% Improvement over 2018 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 1. | <p>How many year-to-year religious acts were accomplished in compliance with the Ten Commandments?</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">1.</td><td>Thou shalt have no other Gods before me</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">2.</td><td>Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">3.</td><td>Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4.</td><td>Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5.</td><td>Honor thy father and thy mother</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6.</td><td>Thou shalt not kill</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7.</td><td>Thou shalt not commit adultery</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8.</td><td>Thou shalt not steal</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9.</td><td>Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10.</td><td>Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, wife, servants, or anything else</td></tr> </table> <p>Exodus 20:1-17</p> <p>Deuteronomy 5:6-21</p> | 1. | Thou shalt have no other Gods before me | 2. | Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image | 3. | Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain | 4. | Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy | 5. | Honor thy father and thy mother | 6. | Thou shalt not kill | 7. | Thou shalt not commit adultery | 8. | Thou shalt not steal | 9. | Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor | 10. | Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, wife, servants, or anything else | <p>Establish a mechanism to identify, measure, compile, and report the following:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; 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| 4. | Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5. | Honor thy father and thy mother | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. | Thou shalt not kill | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7. | Thou shalt not commit adultery | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8. | Thou shalt not steal | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9. | Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10. | Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, wife, servants, or anything else | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 3. | Number of positive tributes to God | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. | Number attending Sunday morning worship service | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5. | Number of tributes to fathers and mothers | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. | Number of murders averted | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7. | Number of adulterous relationships terminated | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8. | Number of thefts averted | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9. | Number of lies reported or averted | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10. | Number of times coveting averted | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 7. | Number of adulterous relationships terminated | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 2. | <p>How many year-to-year religious acts were accomplished in compliance with the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12)?</p> <p>Matthew 7:12 (KJV) ¹² Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.</p> | <p>Documented number of times, including where and when, as a direct result of your leadership, members did unto others what they want done unto them.</p> | <p>Documented number of times, including where and when, as a direct result of your leadership, members did unto others what they want done unto them.</p> | <p>Documented number of times, including where and when, as a direct result of your leadership, members did unto others what they want done unto them.</p> |
| 3. | <p>What universal religious enlightenment (Genesis 3:5) did you provide to eliminate war, domestic violence, or other violent conflict?</p> <p>Genesis 3:5 (KJV) ⁵ For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.</p> | <p>Documented number of times, including where and when your leadership eliminated war, domestic violence, or other violent conflict.</p> | <p>Documented number of times, including where and when your leadership eliminated war, domestic violence, or other violent conflict.</p> | <p>Documented number of times, including where and when your leadership eliminated war, domestic violence, or other violent conflict.</p> |
| 4. | <p>What have you done to eliminate poverty, racism, and discrimination?</p> <p>Proverbs 20:13 (KJV) ¹³ Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, <i>and</i> thou shalt be satisfied with bread.</p> | <p>Documented number of times, including where and when your leadership eliminated an individual's poverty, or systemic poverty; or eliminated acts of racism and discrimination against an individual or systemic racism and discrimination.</p> | <p>Documented number of times, including where and when your leadership eliminated an individual's poverty, or systemic poverty; or eliminated acts of racism and discrimination against an individual or systemic racism and discrimination.</p> | <p>Documented number of times, including where and when your leadership eliminated an individual's poverty, or systemic poverty; or eliminated acts of racism and discrimination against an individual or systemic racism and discrimination.</p> |
| 5. | <p>How successful are your leaders, chairpersons and program coordinators with tangible efforts to eliminate poverty, racism, and</p> | <p>Documented number of times, including where and when your leadership team eliminated poverty, racism, or</p> | <p>Documented number of times, including where and when your leadership team eliminated poverty, racism, or</p> | <p>Documented number of times, including where and when your leadership team eliminated poverty, racism, or</p> |

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| | discrimination? Joshua 1:8 (KJV) ⁸ This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. | discrimination. | discrimination. | discrimination. |
|--|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|

Again, if the objective of the pastor, senior leaders, and program coordinators (the team) is to do God’s work, shouldn’t the pastor and senior leaders and program coordinators (the team) be evaluated on how well or how poorly they actually perform and achieve God’s work? **Well? Well???**

COACHING RESPONSIBILITY

The coaching staff is pivotal in the progress of every football team. The same applies for the religious community. The pastoral staff is pivotal in the progress of every church. Without question, the leadership in the pulpit (just like football) is the pulse, rudder, compass, vision and core of the team. One might think it’s the athletes, but when it’s pouring down cats and dogs making it difficult to even see the front hood of your vehicle, and on fourth and goal with three seconds on the clock, the Head Coach calls for an eight yard pass in the flats in that same pouring rain, the players cannot be held accountable for the coaches decision.

Most of the time, a coach or assistant coaches make the right playbook decision, but sometimes these decisions result in a sports debacle, and games or major championships are lost. We’ve all seen these situations, and as arm-chair quarterbacks we think, “Boy, that was a dumb decision.” But, if the play had worked, the coach would be considered a maverick genius! This is why coaches are fired at the college, university and professional level. These organizations are not so quick to trade or terminate their athletes. The sports world is holding coaches accountable for their team’s success. Churches must hold pastors accountable for the churches success or failure. **Hello!**

COACHING INTELLECT VERSUS INSTINCT

For starters, let’s examine the value of *experience versus intellect*. Before being hired as head coach, shouldn’t coaches have actual first-hand experience playing the game of football? In the absence of first-hand experience, how do coaches acquire the immediate insight to successfully guide the team to win games? Read a book? Guessing or trial-by-error won’t work.

Yes, one can read a bunch of books on football, watch a bunch of films about football, and talk to a bunch of people including college and professional athlete and coaches about football, and collectively acquire a lot of information, insight, and finite knowledge about football. Yes, you can even have an *eidetic memory* or *photographic memory*, but just because you “know” the game does not mean you can “play” the game. Knowledge has its place, but if you’ve never used or deployed the knowledge you’ve acquired, how do you *really* know it will work?

As with all sports, every position has a specific purpose, and the coach must be a subject matter expert in all aspects of the character and scope of performance for each position. Accordingly, a coach who only wields “intellect” or only “experience” is one-dimensional, and as discussed in Chapter 4, “Training and Getting Into Shape,” Football is offense versus defense. With religion, there is good versus evil. Life is not one-dimensional, nor is coaching.

In this regard, football does something that’s completely absent from organized religion. Football *recognizes* that to win the game, a “team” must have an offense and a defense. Football recognizes and anticipates conflict, and to win games a coach must successfully train, develop, and strategically lead a “team” to overcome all obstacles. The head coach hires assistant coaches and support staff that have been trained and directed to implement the specific game strategies (playbook) designed by the head coach. It’s the coaches “experience” that provide the basis for decision-making.

Here’s the problem. In football, the head coach and all assistant coaches know it’s their job to successfully lead a “team” of players, each with specific roles, or jobs. Conversely, in religion, the pastor frequently does not have an assistant pastor, and even worse, the pastor does not lead a “team” of key parishioners with specific roles, or jobs. How can the church successfully combat or overcome evil if it is unable to successfully mount, train, and develop a competent and winning “team”?

| FOOTBALL POSITION | DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES | RELIGIOUS COUNTERPART |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| OFFENSIVE LINE | ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS | ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Center (C)</p> | <p>The center is the player who begins the play from scrimmage by snapping the ball to the quarterback. As the name suggests, the center usually plays in the middle of the offensive line, though some teams may employ an unbalanced line where the center is offset to one side or another. Like all offensive linemen, the center has the responsibility to block defensive players. The center often also has the responsibility to call out blocking assignments and make last second adjustments depending on the defensive alignment.</p> | <p style="font-size: 48pt;">?</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Offensive Guard (G)</p> | <p>Two guards line up directly on either side of the center. Like all interior linemen, their function is to block on both running</p> | <p>RELIGIOUS COUNTERPART</p> |

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| | <p>and passing plays. On some plays, rather than blocking straight ahead, a guard will "pull", whereby the guard comes out of his position in line to lead block for a ball carrier, on plays known as "traps" (for inside runs), or "sweeps" (for outside runs), or "screens" (for passing plays). In such cases, the guard is referred to as a "pulling guard". Guards are typically shorter builds than tackles but taller than centers.</p> | <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">?</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Offensive Tackle (T)</p> | <p>Two tackles play outside of the guards. Their role is primarily to block on both running and passing plays. The area from one tackle to the other is an area of "close line play" in which blocks from behind, which are prohibited elsewhere on the field, are allowed. For a right-handed quarterback, the left tackle is charged with protecting the quarterback from being hit from behind (known as his "blind side"), and this is usually the most skilled player on the offensive line. Like a guard, the tackle may have to "pull," on a running play, when there is a tight end on his side. Tackles are typically a taller, longer build than interior offensive linemen, due to the need to keep separation from defensive linemen in pass blocking situations, as well, they tend to have quick footwork skills as they often engage against containing or rushing defensive ends.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">RELIGIOUS COUNTERPART</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">?</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Quarterback (QB)</p> | <p>The quarterback is the player who receives the ball from the center to start the play. The most important position on the offensive side, the quarterback is responsible for receiving the play from the coaches on the sideline and communicating the play to the other offensive players in the huddle. The quarterback may need to make changes to the play at the line of scrimmage (known as an "audible"), depending on the defensive alignment. At the start of the play, the quarterback may be lined up in one of three positions. If he is positioned directly in contact with the center, and receives the ball via direct hand-to-hand pass, he is said to be "under center". If he is lined up some distance behind the center, he is said to be "in the shotgun". He can also be in between. This is called a "pistol"</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">RELIGIOUS COUNTERPART</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">?</p> |

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| | <p>formation. Upon receiving the snap, the quarterback has three basic options to advance the ball. He may run the ball himself, he may hand it to another eligible ball carrier to run with it, or he may execute a forward pass to a player downfield.</p> | |
| <p>Running Back (RB)</p> | <p>Running backs are players who line up behind the offensive line, who are in position to receive the ball from the quarterback, and execute a rushing play. Anywhere from one to three running backs may be utilized on a play (or even none, a situation typically known as an "empty backfield"). Depending on where they line up, and what role they have, running backs come in several varieties. The "tailback" (or sometimes the "halfback", though this term is somewhat archaic) is often a team's primary ball carrier on rushing plays. He may also catch passes, often acting as a "check-down" or "safety valve" when all other receivers on a pass play are covered. The "fullback" is often larger and stronger than the tailback, and acts primarily as a blocker, though the fullback may also be used for catching passes or for rushing as a tailback does. Fullbacks often line up closer to the line of scrimmage than tailbacks do, so they may block for them. A "wing-back" or a "slot-back" is a term for a running back who lines up behind the line of scrimmage outside the tackle or tight end on the side where positioned. Slot-backs are usually only found in certain offensive alignments, such as the flexbone formation. A similar position, known as the H-back, is actually considered a modification of the normal tight end position (see below).</p> | <p>RELIGIOUS COUNTERPART</p> <p>?</p> |
| <p>Wide Receiver (WR)</p> | <p>The wide receivers are pass-catching specialists. Their main job is to run pass routes and get open for a pass, although they are occasionally called on to block. Wide receivers generally line up split "wide" near the sidelines at the start of the play. Wide receivers, like running backs, come in different varieties depending on exactly where they line up. A wide receiver who is directly on the line of scrimmage is called a "split end", and is counted among the seven required players on the line of scrimmage. A wide</p> | <p>RELIGIOUS COUNTERPART</p> <p>?</p> |

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| | <p>receiver who lines up behind the line (and thus counts as one of the four backs) is called the "flanker". A wide receiver who lines up between the outermost wide receiver and the offensive line is said to be "in the slot" and is called the "slot receiver" or "slotback".</p> | |
| <p>Tight End (TE)</p> | <p>Tight ends play on either side of, and directly next to, the tackles. Tight ends are considered hybrid players, something between a wide receiver and an offensive lineman. Because they play next to the other offensive linemen, they are frequently called on to block, especially on running plays. However, because they are eligible receivers, they may also catch passes. The position known as the H-back is a tight end who lines up behind the line of scrimmage, and is thus counted as one of the four "backs", but otherwise his role is similar to that of other tight ends.</p> | <p>RELIGIOUS COUNTERPART</p> <p>?</p> |
| DEFENSIVE LINE | | |
| <p>Defensive Tackle (DT)</p> | <p>Sometimes called a <i>defensive guard</i>, defensive tackles play at the center of the defensive line. Their function is to rush the passer (if they can get past the offensive linemen blocking them), and stop running plays directed at the middle of the line of scrimmage. The most interior defensive tackle who sometimes lines up directly across from the ball (and therefore is almost nose-to-nose with the offense's center) is often called a <i>nose tackle</i> or <i>nose guard</i>. The nose tackle is most common in the 3-4 defense. Most defensive sets have one or two defensive tackles. If one employs a second defensive tackle, sometimes called an <i>under tackle</i>, he is usually a bit faster than the nose tackle.</p> | <p>RELIGIOUS COUNTERPART</p> <p>?</p> |
| <p>Defensive End (DE)</p> | <p>The two defensive ends play next to the defensive tackles, at the edges of the defensive line. Their function is to attack the passer or stop offensive runs to the outer edges of the line of scrimmage (most often referred to as "containment"). The faster of the two is usually placed on the right side of the defensive line (quarterback's left) because that is a right-handed quarterback's blind side.</p> | <p>RELIGIOUS COUNTERPART</p> <p>?</p> |

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| <p>Middle Linebacker (MLB)</p> | <p>Sometimes called the "inside linebacker" (especially in a 3-4 defense), and known colloquially as the "Mike" linebacker, the middle linebacker is often known as the "quarterback of the defense", as they are frequently the primary defensive play callers and must react to a wide variety of situations. Middle linebackers must be capable of stopping running backs who make it past the defensive line, covering pass plays over the middle, and rushing the quarterback on blitz plays.</p> | <p>RELIGIOUS COUNTERPART</p> <p>?</p> |
| <p>Outside Linebacker (OLB)</p> | <p>Outside linebackers are given different names depending on their role and the philosophy of the team. Some teams keep their outside linebackers on the same side of the field at all times, and thus they are known as "right outside" (ROLB) and "left outside" (LOLB). Some teams define them by their role; as playing either "strongside" (SLB) or "weakside" (WLB). The strongside, or "Sam", linebacker lines up on the same side as the offensive tight end and often is responsible for covering the tight end or running back on pass plays. The weakside, or "Will", linebacker lines up on the side of the offensive line without a tight end, and is often used to rush, or blitz the quarterback, or may need to cover a running back on pass plays.</p> | <p>RELIGIOUS COUNTERPART</p> <p>?</p> |
| <p>Cornerback (CB)</p> | <p>Typically two players primarily cover the wide receivers. Cornerbacks attempt to prevent successful quarterback passes by either swatting the airborne ball away from the receiver or by catching the pass themselves. In rushing situations, their job is to contain the runner, either by directing him back to the middle of the field to be tackled, by tackling him themselves, or by forcing him out of bounds.</p> | <p>RELIGIOUS COUNTERPART</p> <p>?</p> |
| <p>Safety (S)</p> | <p>The safeties are the last line of defense (farthest from the line of scrimmage) and usually help the corners with deep-pass coverage. The <i>strong safety</i> (SS) is usually the larger and stronger of the two, providing extra protection against run plays by standing closer to the line of scrimmage, usually on the strong (tight end) side of the field. The <i>free safety</i> (FS) is usually the smaller and faster of the two, and is usually the deepest player on</p> | <p>RELIGIOUS COUNTERPART</p> <p>?</p> |

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| | the defense, providing help on long pass plays. | |
| Nickelback and DimeBack | In certain formations, the defense may remove a linebacker or a defensive lineman to bring in extra pass coverage in the form of extra defensive backs. A formation with five defensive backs is often called a "nickel" formation, and the fifth (extra) defensive back is called a "nickelback" after the U.S. nickel coin, a five-cent piece. By extension, a formation with a sixth defensive back is called a "dime package", a 10-cent dime coin being "two nickels (nickelbacks)." Rarely, a team may employ seven or eight defensive backs on certain plays. | <div style="background-color: black; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">RELIGIOUS COUNTERPART</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 48px; margin-top: 20px;">?</div> |

It's an enormous challenge for a pastor to mount a church development campaign without a team of properly trained and like-minded individuals. So, where exactly is the feeder group for pastors, assistant pastors, and other religious "team" members? Churches who place people in leadership positions who have no experience or demonstrated proficiencies in key development areas are setting the church up to fail. Rookie coaches, like rookie players make a ton of mistakes. Oh, you've got start somewhere, right? Wrong. As leaders, whether in football or religion, we must be pragmatic in our decision-making process, and our failure to conduct due diligence, and to properly prepare for all endeavors will cause us to be unsuccessful as coaches, and yes, unsuccessful as pastors.

COACHING THE LAW OF LARGE NUMBERS

In probability theory, the law of large numbers (LLN) is a theorem that describes the result of performing the same experiment a large number of times. According to the law, the average of the results obtained from a large number of trials should be close to the expected value, and will tend to become closer as more trials are performed. *Source: Wikipedia.com*

The spiritual glitch facing the 21st century church is its failure to attract young adults to become pastors and church leaders. Given the LLN, the constant signs of closing churches and declining church memberships portend bad news for all religions. In fact, getting pastors and leaders for most mainline churches is like pulling teeth. Regardless of age, getting parishioners to serve on church committees is harder than flying a kite in a California forest fire. This shows up in the declining number of admissions in U.S. seminaries for the past forty years.

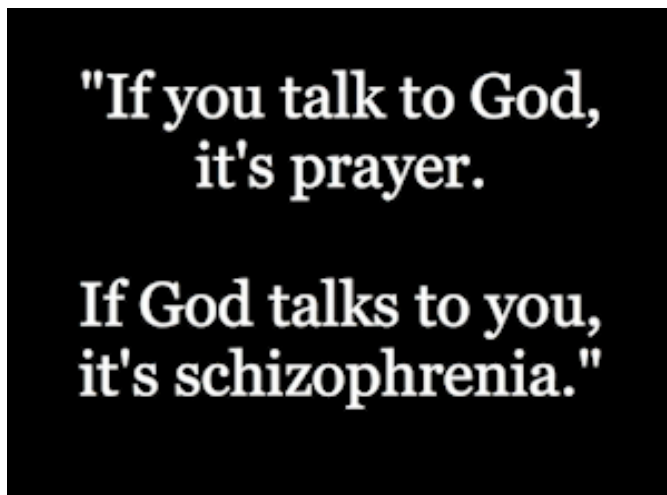
Due to declining membership and the closing of churches, United Methodists in the Kansas East, Kansas West and Nebraska United Methodist conferences voted in 2012 to form a new annual conference beginning Jan. 1, 2014. This merger created

seventeen districts and over one thousand churches supervised by 736 Pastors. The diminishing ranks of ordained clergy within the Great Plains Conference are of great concern. As detailed in the graph below, within the next ten years a spiritual avalanche of retirements will hit the Great Plains Conference of the United Methodist Church.

| AGE GROUP | NUMBER OF CLERGY (Median age 56) | % OF TOTAL |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 75+ | 11 | 1.49% |
| 70-74 | 9 | 1.22% |
| 65-69 | 61 | 8.28% |
| 60-64 | 179 | 24.32% |
| 55-59 | 166 | 22.55% |
| 50-54 | 82 | 11.14% |
| 45-49 | 76 | 10.33% |
| 40-44 | 44 | 5.98% |
| 35-39 | 38 | 5.16% |
| 30-34 | 39 | 5.3% |
| 25-29 | 19 | 2.58% |
| 20-24 | 5 | .68% |
| Unknown | 7 | .95% |
| Total | 136 | 100% |

Over the next ten years, should these eligible men and women retire, over a thousand churches in the Great Plains Conference will embark upon a drop of 345 pastors. This will leave 391 pastors to serve over one thousand congregations. Frankly, with so many vacancies, the church should promote itself as a growth industry, but such has not happened, at least not yet; but when?

DOES PASTORAL COACHING LACK CREDIBILITY?



Given the conflicting intricacies and subtleties of football, it makes sense that coaches should be, or rather coaches *need* to be former players. Before getting the “green light” to play or coach, the physical and intellectual proficiencies of football players and coaches must be vetted, validated. However, what’s the corollary for religion? No degree is required to preach, and my pastors never attended or graduated from seminary. Likewise, anyone can say, “God spoke directly to me” or “God told me to do it,” and unfortunately, many people are sucked into the scams of these religious charlatans and religious pimps, such as:

1. Former televangelist, and convicted felon, Jim Bakker.

2. Disciples of Christ pastor, Jim Jones, who in November, 1978 lead the mass murder-suicide of 918 of his “cult” members in Jonestown, Guyana; and
3. Matthew Hale, Pastor and Pontifex Maximus of the Creativity Movement, an offshoot of the Ku Klux Klan; Hale’s serving 40 years in prison for attempting to solicit the murder of Judge Joan Lefkow.

This is a very brief list of religious charlatans, and if we expand to a worldwide search, this list of charlatans could easily venture into the millions. Given the frequent appearance of religious fakes, why should anyone value religion over football, particularly when the “realities” of football are easily validated on “live” television, in prime time, and watched from the comfort of your own home? The lack of credibility among religious leaders, and especially pastoral coaches is a major problem.

So, given the intricacies and subtleties of religion, what should be the source for pastors and assistant pastors? Church members? Lay leaders? Believers of and in God? Most importantly, if belief in God is required, how do we validate that God’s coaches (pastors and assistant pastors) actually have the demonstrated skills, knowledge, and proficiencies to coach others to do God’s work? While working by “faith” alone might work in religion, conversely, football is about demonstrated performance, and coaches who fail to perform are terminated. Conversely, when pastors fail to sustain membership, churches close.

IS THE “BODY OF CHRIST” A SOURCE FOR PASTORAL COACHES?

In Christian theology, the term “**Body of Christ**” has two primary meanings:

1. In reference to Jesus' spoken words over the bread at the Last Supper that "This is my body" in Luke 22:19-20

Luke 22:19-20 (KJV)

¹⁹ And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake *it*, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

²⁰ Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup *is* the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

or

2. In reference to comments of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 and Ephesians 4:1-16.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 (KJV)

¹² For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ.

¹³ For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one

Spirit.

¹⁴ For the body is not one member, but many.

Ephesians 4:1-16 (KJV)

¹ I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

² With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

³ Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

⁴ *There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

⁵ One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

⁶ One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

⁷ But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

⁸ Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

⁹ (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

¹⁰ He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

¹⁴ That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:

¹⁶ From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Additionally, some consider the post-resurrection of Jesus' body in Heaven as the Body of Christ. So, what does this have to do with coaching? Football does not involve or require belief in a deity, or unselfish acts of altruism, or love for another human being. This is worth repeating:

Football does not involve or require belief in a deity, or unselfish acts of altruism, or love for another human being.

In fact, historically, a "negative" objective for many but not all players and coaches was and remains to intentionally target, injure and force players out of the

game, or if necessary, to end careers. For many players and coaches, when it comes to winning games, “good sportsmanship” is not even a secondary consideration. The singular objective in football is to win.

Conversely, as written in the Bible, Quran, Tanakh/Torah, the Book of Mormon and other religious doctrine, the singular objective for all religious faiths is to educate, motivate, entice or convert people to do what they believe to be the will of God. So, first and foremost, before being a leader of God’s sheep, every church leader, especially pastors, need to be members of the Body of Christ and fully committed to the Lord. This point cannot be overemphasized, pastors need to be dedicated and loyal Disciples of Jesus Christ: saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost! To use a football colloquialism, pastors need to be ALL-IN, and have some SPIRITUAL SKIN in the game. Why is this so important?

Football is a very, very exclusive club; not everyone can play or coach football, *but anyone, everyone can love and be loved by God*. Whether amateur or professional, there are limitations to being a football player and/or coach:

1. only a certain age can play (pee wee, high school, college, professional);
2. only a certain sex, male, can play (novelty football involving women is just that, a “novelty” and arguably targeted for lesbians, or solely for the purpose of gratuitous sexual voyeurism);
3. only people of a certain height, weight, speed, strength, and agility can play, and people who are physically (blind, crippled, paralyzed, etc.) and mentally disabled are prohibited; and
4. although the first Black player, Frederick Douglass "Fritz" Pollard joined the NFL in 1920, all football players had to be White until 1946 when open integration was officially adopted and the Los Angeles Rams signed running back Kenny Washington and receiver Woody Strode.

Plus, there are only 128 NCAA Division 1 football teams, 170 NCAA Division II football teams, and 249 NCA Division III football teams. Under NCAA football rules for the 2012-13 season, a college football team was limited to no more than 105 players during the offseason, but during the football season, no regulated limit exists (Source: reference.com). Notably, Division I-A colleges don't use anywhere near 105 players in their actual games, with on average only 55 players having appeared in each game for 30 Division I-A teams (Source: *athleticscholarships.net*).

For professional football, each NFL team is allowed 53 players on its roster, plus a five-player practice squad. In 2011, the NFL had 32 teams for a total of 1,696 players, with an average player salary of \$1.9 million (Source: *Plunkett Research and infoplease.com*).

Conversely, as published in the book, “Beyond Megachurch Myths,” in 2007 there were 320,000 Christian churches in the United States, and 1,250 are megachurches with an average weekend attendance of 2,000 or more. In summary, there are 320,000 churches (or “religious teams”) versus 579 football teams (128 + 170 + 249 + 32 = 579). Plus, even when you count all of the amateur and professional coaches and assistant coaches attached to these 579 football teams, according to the Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches (www.yearbookofchurches.org) there

were **600,000** clergy (coaches) serving in various denominations in the United States. Unfortunately, again, football is well-organized, and as stated in the summary of Chapter 3, football “**self-promotes**” its own importance, but religion does not.

As discussed in “Chapter I, The Halftime Speech,” it’s the responsibility of the football coach to motivate and inspire players to perform at their absolute best. Likewise, with the Body of Christ as our template, pastors must also coach their congregations and inspire others to the word of God. As written in scripture:

Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV)

¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

Scripture commands pastors to teach (educate, inform, instruct, etc.), which by default requires teachers to assess or evaluate if students actually comprehend the subject matter, and determine if students are able to execute “real world” application to the lessons they learned. Often, the easiest students to teach are those who’ve been inspired by a teacher or inspired by the subject matter. For both teacher and student the existence of “inspiration” makes it much easier to teach, because attached to “inspiration” is zip, zap, zing, zest, and zeal! How do we, and without regard to our religious affiliation, best inspire others to our ideas? Unlike football programs, the church does not have ‘*Try Outs*’ for church membership or cuts if someone fails to meet arbitrary membership requirements.

To be a member of the church “team,” all is required is accepting and believing in Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. The pastor (coach) does not require an existing or potential member to run 40 yard dash, or do push ups, sit ups, or tackle other members before they reach the pulpit. Given the reliance of football players and coaches on their “playbook,” surprisingly the pastor (coach) does not even test existing or potential members on the churches playbook, the Bible. Again, pastors primarily confine their Q & A for recruitment of new and retention of existing church members to inquiries concerning the general acceptance and belief in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior – that’s it. **Play ball.**

COACHING YOUR WAY INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD

John 3:16 (KJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Acts 2:38 (KJV)

³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Romans 10:9 (KJV)

⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Embracing John 3:16, Acts 2:38 and Romans 10:9 gets your foot in the front door to the Kingdom of God. Believing in the coach and his philosophy is extremely important for both team and individual success; because the coach's philosophy shapes, defines, highlights, develops and cultivates players, including individual skills, abilities and even a player's outlook on life.

Imagine if pastors had a football mentality when it came to putting people out there on the battlefield of life *and* rescuing people from that same battlefield. Imagine pastors requiring existing and potential members to give 100 percent of their physical and mental abilities to serve to the Lord. The point here is that fewer people would be leaving the church, and fewer churches would be closing if pastors approached their ministries with a "football mentality," and ideally, this paradigm should become the absolute standard to unify all faiths.

In Christianity, especially at mega churches with over 10,000 members, you can hide, disappear, blend in and literally be a spectator because there are so many people. Even congregations with only a 100 members or less have members who literally do nothing. As pastoral coaches, it's the pastor's job to raise people up from just sitting on a church pew on Sunday morning, and galvanize people to serve the Lord whenever and wherever possible. In this regard, a pastoral leadership style must adapt as needed to enable achievement of strategic results. Accordingly, being autocratic, or democratic, or laissez-faire, or whatever doesn't really matter, providing of course, that we treat all people with fairness, kindness, and God's love.

COACHES MUST LEAD

Bruce Blythe, is CEO of Crisis Management International, Inc., a worldwide organization of crisis management specialists, business continuity planners, and he's a former FBI and Secret Service agent. Here are Blythe's top three attributes for quality leaders:

1. Visionary;
2. Good communicators; and
3. People-people.

Many quality leaders let go of the actual doing, because they understand their business, and are extremely effective working as role models who build rapport quickly, with great charisma, and the overwhelming consensus from all people is that "quality leaders" are very determined and very passionate about their team's success; not their individual success, oh no, their highest priority is "the team." On his web site, Blythe adds this quote from Ray Kroc, founder of McDonalds:

"The quality of a leader is reflected in the standard they set for themselves."

The standards football coaches set for themselves must be as high or higher than standards established for or by players, and these standards must evolve to meet future needs and objectives. Likewise, to sustain or increase church membership pastoral coaches must adopt a similar “football mentality” to meet future needs and objectives. Yes, it is okay to say, “Amen,” right here.

COACHING WHILE RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP IS BEING FEMINIZED

One of the new buzzwords humming around the entire faith community is the “feminizing” of church leadership. Feminizing the clergy is where many protestant churches are leading, teaching, and guiding; but exclusively from a socio-political-emotional perspective, and not based on scripture, which conflicts with the “feminizing the clergy” movement. As presented in chapter three, “The Recruiting Phenomenon,” religious recruitment is sex-based, which is a blatant contraction to liberal political agendas that push religious dogma contrary to scripture.

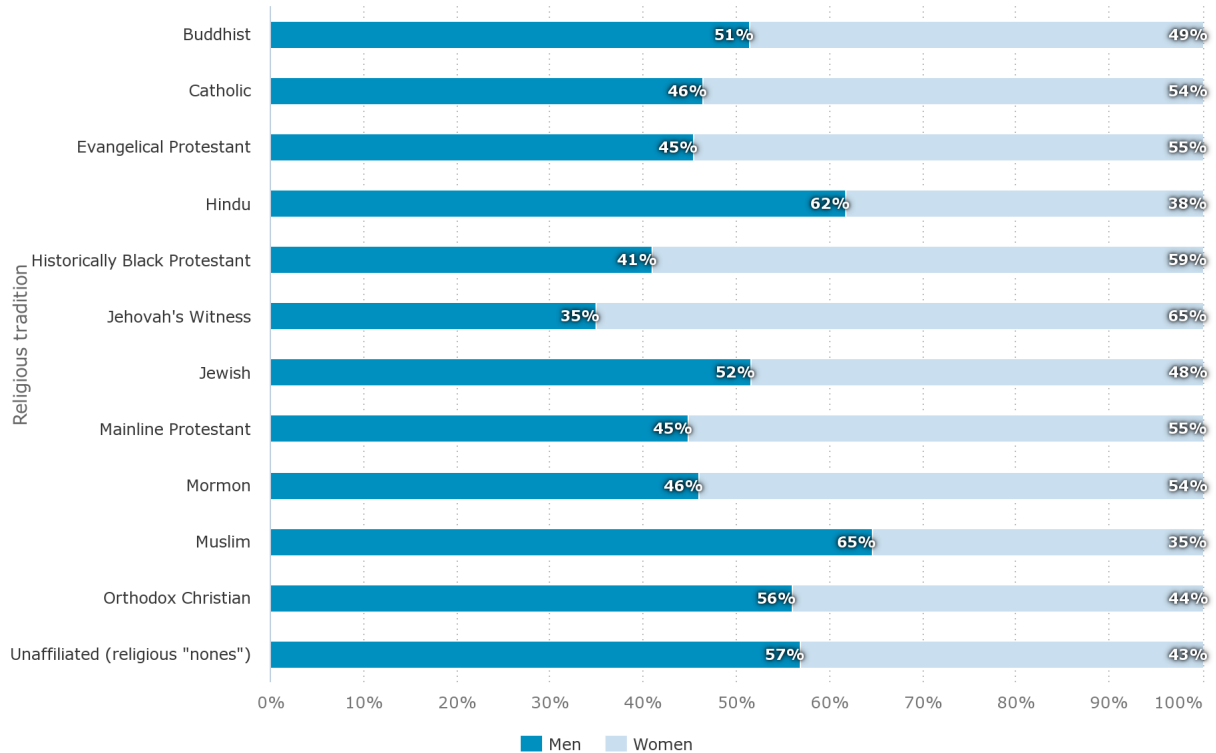
In the United States of American, it’s long been perceived and legally held by local, state, and federal courts that a separation between church and state is a core tenet to our republic. Unfortunately, on both sides of the coin, this so-called separation has been pretty murky at times. Clearly, with “In God We Trust” posted boldly on U.S. coins since 1864 and on paper currency since October 1, 1957, opponents appropriately claim such religious reference violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment and should be removed from all coins and currency. Historically, in order to achieve their conflicting agendas, its been the practice of both side of this argument to “pick and choose” whatever works. Sadly, it’s always been the practice of all religions to “pick and choose” how to interpret and apply Holy Scripture.

For example, before the genocide and ongoing imprisonment (reservations) of Native Americans, and before the enslavement of Black people, during the enslavement of Black people, and after the so-called end of slavery, for hundreds of years Bible-thumping, church-going White men and women actively demonstrated their contempt of the Bible and contempt of the so-called “Word of God” by openly killing Native Americans and owning, beating, raping and killing Black people.

So, although the movement to “feminize” religious leadership is not consistent with Holy Scripture, it is consistent with “picking and choosing” how to interpret and apply Holy Scripture. In this regard, the gender composition of religious groups is changing rather dramatically.

Gender composition by religious group

% of adults who are...



PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Looking closely at the role of women among all religious faiths, some people demand Title VII, Equal Pay Act, Affirmative Action, quotas, etc., should be applied to advance the rights of women within organized religion. The following question applies to all of the Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam), and exists as the fundamental question for *all* people of faith:

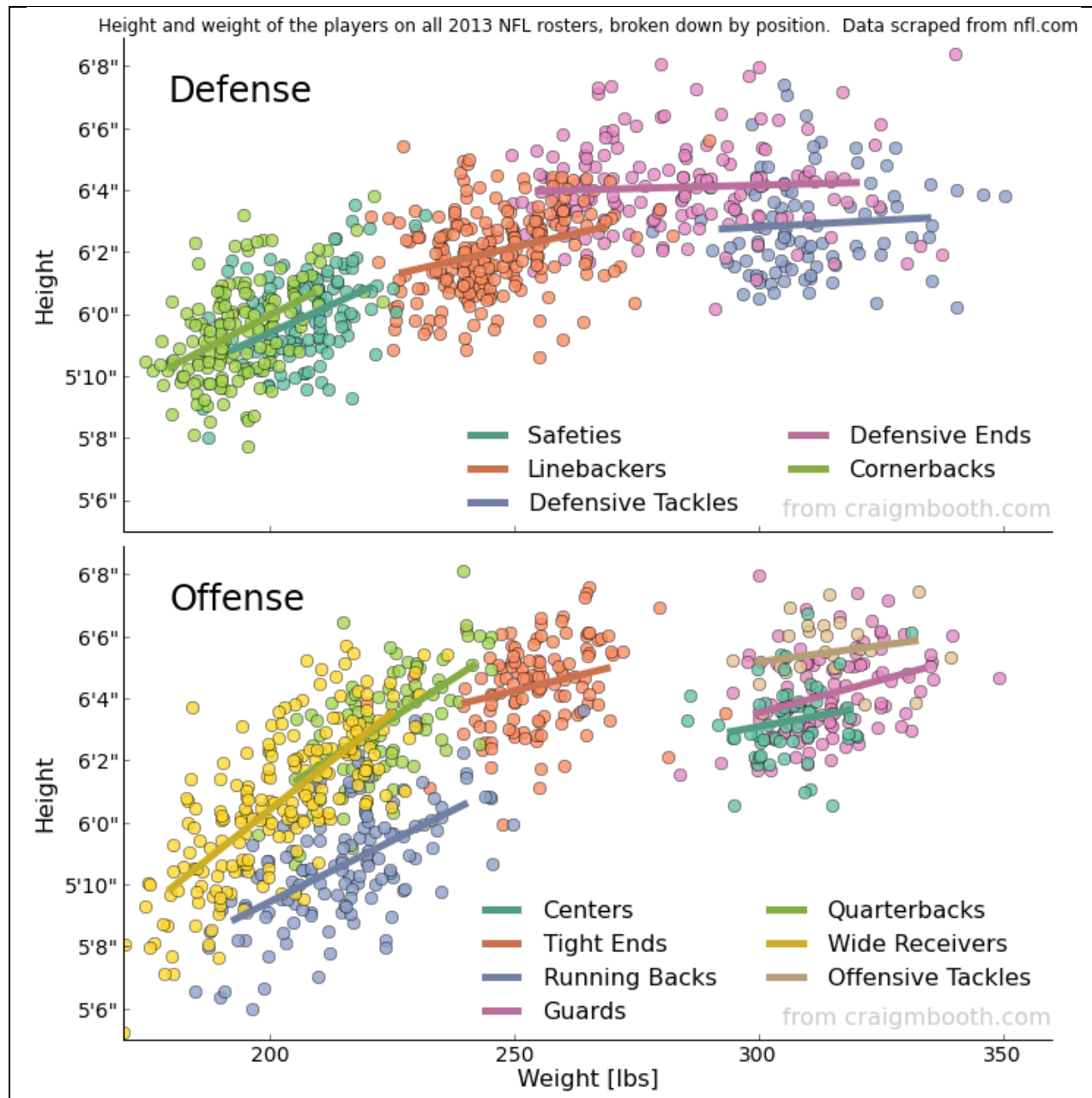
Do you believe religious scripture in the Tanakh/Torah, Bible, and Quran to be the actual inspired word of God?

If your answer is "YES," then you realize and accept the role of men and women has already been defined by God through scripture; scripture you accepted as the inspired word of God. *If your answer is "NO," then your belief in God is skewed if not corrupt.* In concert with the Doctrine of Discovery, organized religion has always pursued the conquest of souls as a cornerstone to promote and sustain all Abrahamic religions, but this is in direct contradiction to the inspired word of God; because God's divine words exist as an apolitical event, bereft of killing and war – which is clearly in blatant contradiction to God's 6th Commandment:

Thou shalt not kill.

Nielsen data shows over 55% of women watch NFL football, which make women a highly sought after advertising demographic, but let's keep the obvious in mind:

Football is played and coached by men because the intense physicality requires the highest caliber and combination of strength, speed, agility, endurance, and mental acuity, and women do not wield this configuration of proficiencies; which does not make men better than women, but only different. As posted at NFL.com, by 2013, the median weight for NFL guards and tackles had reached 310 pounds. That means over half weigh more than 310 pounds. Any demand to “feminize” football through Title VII, Equal Pay Act, Affirmative Action, quotas, etc., and permit women to play “heads up,” one-on-one against men would be, well, ridiculous.



FYI, Natalya Lisovskaya is the world record holder in the women's shot put, with a record throw of 74 feet 3 inches (22.63 meters) on June 7, 1987. Lisovskaya is 6'2" and weighs 231 pound and is much too small, and not strong enough to play college or professional football. By the way, the men's shot put record of 75 feet 10 inches was set by Randy Barnes on May 20, 1990; but you'd be wrong to think men and women are evenly matched in this event because the men's shot weighs 7.260 kilograms (16.01 lbs), while the women's shot weighs half as much at only 4 kilograms (8.8 lbs).

Given the size and performance requirements to play college and professional football, a woman would need to be 6'6" tall, weigh at least 245 pounds, run a 40 yard dash under 5 seconds, bench press over 350 pounds, and have a robust knowledge of football *just to be considered*. Again, it's just stupid for anyone to demand the "feminizing" of football through Title VII, Equal Pay Act, Affirmative Action, quotas, etc., because football requires the highest caliber and combination of strength, speed, agility, endurance, and mental acuity, and women, including elite level professional body builders, sprinters, basketball players, etc. do not wield this configuration of proficiencies; which does not make men better than women, but only different.

Feminized spiritual leadership acts upon feelings rather than operating from a base of responsibility or duty. According to pastor and host of the TV program "Love, Marriage and Stinking Thinking" (<http://www.lovemarriageandstinkingthinking.com>) Mark Gungor states that young boys are being taught and trained to feel, rather than to think and to act responsibly. The result of males acting on their feelings Gungor states, is that, "Christian husbands are committing adultery based on what they feel like doing, rather than on what is right." Gungor states when pastors do this, they end up using a style of management based on emotions i.e., feelings, and end up trying to please everybody rather than to lead strong, and authoritatively, putting their muscular foot down. They are worried too much about how people feel.



Conversely, football is not a caring institution. Coaches don't "care" how players feel if they do not start. A coach's primary responsibility is to get a "W." If the Nebraska Cornhuskers lose seven games in a single season, the fans comments on post-game radio shows breathe out fire and brimstone. The feminizing of church leadership, which is not a homosexual reference, is a *bad* move. The "right" move, is defined by Holy Scripture, which must prevail, and not yet another Johnny-come-lately fad, which is born from a socio-political decision anchored to emotions.

Keep in mind, the football "playbook" is equivalent to religious playbooks as documented by the Bible, Tanakh/Torah, Quran, Book of Mormon, etc. The immediate objective of football is not emotionalism, but only the accomplishment of strategic objectives that result in winning games and championships. The emotion-based enthusiasm seen in football is the result of success or failure when attempting to execute a play (i.e., scripture). The football playbook uses teamwork, self-discipline, goal-setting, personal sacrifices, and all in compliance with the "rules book" of the game.

The demand to feminize clergy and apply Title VII, Equal Pay Act, Affirmative Action, quotas, etc., to organized religion is not only contrary to the separation between church and state, but equally important, such manipulation leads to other obvious conclusions. In June 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled by a 5-to-4 vote that the Constitution guarantees a right to same-sex marriage. Okay . . .

- **Now that the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) lifestyle is acceptable socially, politically and successfully coerced throughout the faith-based community, what about the rights of bigamists and polygamists and pedophiles? Don't they have "rights" too?**

| | | |
|----------|--------------------|--|
| L | Lesbian | A female who experiences romantic love or sexual attraction to other females. |
| G | Gay | A Male who experiences romantic love or sexual attraction to other males. |
| B | Bisexual | Females or males who experience romantic love or sexual attraction to both females and males. |
| T | Transgender | People who have a gender identity, or gender expression, that differs from their assigned sex. Transgender people are sometimes called transsexual if they desire medical assistance to transition from one sex to another. |
| Q | Queer | People who identify as or are questioning their sexual identity. |
| I | Intersex | An intersex human or other animal is one possessing any of several variations in sex characteristics including chromosomes, gonads, sex hormones, or genitals that, according to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, "do not fit typical binary notions of male or female bodies." Such variations may involve genital ambiguity, and combinations of chromosomal genotype and sexual phenotype other than XY-male and XX-female. Intersex people were previously referred to as hermaphrodites, "congenital eunuchs," or even congenitally "frigid." Some intersex infants and children, such as those with ambiguous outer genitalia, are surgically or hormonally altered to create more socially acceptable sex characteristics. However, this is considered controversial, with no firm evidence of good outcomes. |
| B | Bigamist | Bigamy is the act of entering into a marriage with one person while still legally married to another. |
| P | Polygamist | A man married to more than one wife at a time (polygyny); or a woman married to more than one husband at a time (polyandry). |
| P | Pedophiles | Adults or older adolescents sexually attracted to prepubescent children. |

- The Bible documents how men had multiple wives, and marriages between pre-teenage girls and grown adult men, and such has been prevalent in cultures throughout the world, including the United States. However, religious scripture places the highest standard on the monogamous relationship between a man and a woman. **But if Biblical standards are no longer relevant and easily ignored, what's wrong with having multiple wives and multiple husbands, and having sex with and marrying children?**

- Moving forward, shouldn't we expand our "religious thinking" from LGBT to include every conceivable sexual variation? *Well?*

LGBTQIBPP. **Did we miss anyone??** *If so, expect another Johnny-come-lately socio-political group wrongly excluded will surely add their letter to the aforementioned acronym.* There's a class action lawsuit (bigamists, polygamists, and pedophiles vs. the U.S. Government) just waiting to happen, and the ACLU and the U.S. Supreme Court better get ready! Clearly, "religion without borders" has become the new standard, and scripture is ignored or re-defined to support the immediate demands of an ever-expanding LGBTQIBPP community.

For the record, this author has absolutely nothing against the LGBTQIBPP community; in fact, this author has great respect and love for all people, and without regard to age, race, sex, creed, ethnicity, national origin, religion, veteran status, sexual preference, income, disability, or any other consideration. Simply put, everyone, all human beings should be treated fairly and equally. However, **before granting so-called "equal rights" to sub-cultures within sub-cultures, why not give equal rights to the most oppressed and enslaved people in the U.S., Native Americans and Black people?**

As factually validated by the ongoing existence of the "Glass Ceiling" and other measures of social, political and economic equality, LGBTQIBPPs practice and enforce the same racist and sexist White-privilege-based economics and politics used by their non-LGBTQIBPP peers. For example, Apple's President/CEO Tim Cook is gay, but as usual, the clear majority of Apple's employees and management team are White. Consistent with the Doctrine of Discovery and the subsequent "headright" system, only **White men and White women hold exclusive rights to "White privilege," and the LGBTQIBPP movement does NOT correct the everlasting racial inequity between White people and racial minorities.** Plus, as clearly validated throughout U.S. history, it's perfectly okay for White people to do whatever they want! Just ask Native Americans [<https://youtu.be/8tEuaj4h8dw>]!

Given the differences that distinguish the Abrahamic religions, people of faith have never worn the same religious armor; but the demand to feminize clergy and apply Title VII, Equal Pay Act, Affirmative Action, quotas, etc., will forever separate and create an even greater divide between those who believe religious scripture in the Tanakh/Torah, Bible, and Quran to be the actual inspired words of God versus those who don't. All beliefs and principles, including religious, forfeit their integrity, when polluted by contradiction and hypocrisy, and it will always be perceived as contemptuous for the LGBTQIBPP community to unilaterally pick-and-choose the specific tenets they will accept or discard.

COACHES LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Leaders must have lived or currently live the life they're coaching and expect from their players. Coaches or pastors who want passionate, dedicated, visionary and on-fire-for-Jesus disciples and team leaders should first be that themselves. Their flocks and staffs need to see them model this so that they will know what it looks like.

My younger brother, Rev. Dr. Wayne M. Reynolds' teaching experience at the Boys Town central campus in Omaha, Nebraska was punctuated by a teaching formula that emphasized introducing new skills to students; which was achieved by first illustrating and modeling it for them, so they'll know what it looks like. This is why it's so important for football coaches to have first played the game before trying to teach someone else how. You must first have the faith yourself that you are going to teach and expect others to have.

As presented in this book, churches can learn a lot from football, and partnering with a NCAA Division I football conference (SEC, Pac-Ten, Big 10, Missouri Valley, or Big 12 etc.), would give congregations a much greater outlook and perspective on how to develop, execute and achieve a strategic business plan.

To some, this "inclusionary idea" of partnering with colleges is too radical, but building mutually productive relationships with presidents, regents, athletic directors and other professional is a win-win situation. These are the kinds of outside-the-box movements that will save churches.

PLAYERS LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Jerricho Cotchery

**Carolina Panthers
Wide Receiver**

*Gives it All He's Got,
Becoming the Man God
Created Him to Be*

Raised as the second-youngest of 13 children in Birmingham, Alabama, Jerricho Cotchery did a fair amount of learning by example – both good and bad — early on. "I watched everything going on around me," he now says. "I still made my fair share of mistakes. But, I was able to learn from those mistakes at a young age and I'm very thankful for that..."

Jason Campbell

**Cincinnati Bengals
Quarterback**

*A caring leader who grows
stronger with every setback
because he places his destiny
in God's hands*

To see Jason Campbell play football, whether back in his Auburn University days, as a starting quarterback for the Cleveland Browns, or in his new role with the Cincinnati Bengals, you might imagine that sports was the sole focus of his childhood. But in fact, his parents put just as much emphasis on academics as sports for Jason and his siblings...

Doug Baldwin, Jr.

**Seattle Seahawks
Wide Receiver**

*Guided by faith, he learned to
transform negative feelings into
a recognition of adversity as an
opportunity for growth*

At the age of six, Doug Baldwin Jr. joined his first football team. "And then I quit because I was afraid to get hit," Doug said. "My mom warned me that if I started the program the following year, she wasn't going to let me quit. So I signed up, and again, once the season was under way, I wanted to stop. But this time she wouldn't let me. She taught me at that very young age when you decide to commit to something, it means you're going to see it through."

SOURCE: <http://www.theinsightfulplayer.com/player-stories/>

When athletes are interviewed by the media and thank God for their victories, are we to believe these comments are nothing but rhetoric, or are these athletes actually sincere in their beliefs; and equally important, are these athletes actually attending church on a regular basis? The absence of a vibrant media relations campaign is killing the church.

For example, after winning the NFC Championship in 2013, which earned his first appearance in the Super Bowl XLVIII, Seattle Seahawk quarterback Russell Wilson made the following statement “live” during a nationally broadcast post-game interview:



“I believe God prepared me for this situation. God prepared our team too, as well.”
Russell Wilson,
Quarterback
Seattle Seahawks



“I believe God prepared me for this situation, and I’m thankful to my pastor and to members of the United Methodist Church for their continuous support!”
Russell Wilson,
Quarterback
Seattle Seahawks

| | |
|--|--|
| WITHOUT A FAITH-BASED MEDIA RELATIONS CAMPAIGN, WHAT RUSSELL WILSON ACTUALLY SAID | WHAT RUSSELL WILSON COULD HAVE / SHOULD HAVE SAID WITH A FAITH-BASED NATIONAL MEDIA RELATIONS CAMPAIGN* |
|--|--|

* **NOTE:** This is a “proposed” media relations campaign; there is no public record or evidence that Russell Wilson is a member of the United Methodist Church.

There you have it, millions of people watching and listening to someone talk about his “generic” faith in God, but absolutely no effort was made by the “spokesperson” (i.e., Russell Wilson) *to actually commit and promote his faith and denomination* as seamlessly as he promotes his football team. Again, football “self-promotes” its own importance through an aggressive, well coordinated, multimedia marketing campaign, but religion does not. The NFL is a business, and as such, it must be accepting of all religions or no religion. **However, Wilson’s “pastoral coach” and “media relations team” should have better prepared Wilson how to strategically convey his faith and denomination before a “live” television audience.**

For thousands of athletes religion and church “is” the game of football. When coaches thank God (whom we presume they know personally, *right?*) for their successful season, doesn’t their success truly belong to both God and football? If the end zone to the church sanctuary is the total and complete game of football, then failure to attend Sunday morning church in God’s house is not only ungrateful, but a

manipulative use of God's love and God's many gifts especially those large football stadiums, enormous salaries, and fame.

COACHES TRAIN PLAYERS TO EXECUTE THE BEST OPTION

In football, a great coach trains quarterbacks to perceive and execute the best option: (1) run the ball; (2) hand-off the ball to a running back or fullback; (3) pass (throw) the ball to a wide receiver or other eligible players down field; or (4) something else. Like football, the church also has numerous options or ways of doing ministry on the Christian battlefield. This includes but is not limited to ministries with children, youth, young adults, adult men and women, seniors, the homeless, public housing, teen pregnancy, health ministries, ministries to U.S. Veterans, computer and tutorial services, job training, music ministries, emergency assistance, and disaster assistance.

THE BOTTOM LINE: RELIGIONS FAIL TO DEVELOP AND RETAIN COACHES –

Ultimately, in football, coaches are judged on their performance; did they win the game, did they win the championship? Conversely, pastoral coaches are not judged on acts of altruism and biblical standards of performance, but they should be, because such is the appropriate equivalent measure in



compliance with God's playbook - the Tanakh/Torah, Bible, Quran, Book of Mormon, etc. It's the coach's responsibility to lead by example, everywhere and all of the time, and to use intellect over instinct, to use reason over emotion. When football coaches fail to acknowledge and use facts, they lose. Pastoral coaches continue to ignore the closing of churches and declining church memberships, which is bad news for all religions, and consequently, churches have lost credibility. As pastoral coaches, many believe the Body of Christ as a key to salvation, but constantly declining church membership will result with no one left to be saved. It's time for pastoral coaches to take stock of our flock, and coach our way into the Kingdom of God with strong leadership. Pastoral leadership must not be trendy, and shift from one socio-political-emotional perspective to another, but must remain steadfast and secure in our religious doctrine. Coaches lead by example, as we must forever be the pinnacles of religious performance. **That's what pastors do.**

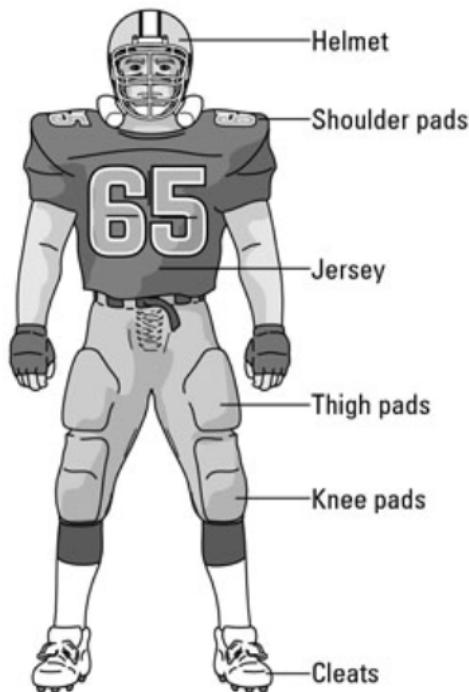
CHAPTER SIX

THE UNIFORM – THE ARMOR

QUESTION: What kind of uniform do NFL football players wear; and what kind of protective armor do NFL football players wear?

ANSWER: <http://www.dummies.com/sports/football/the-american-football-players-uniform/>

| FOOTBALL UNIFORM | ARMOR |
|------------------|-------|
|------------------|-------|



All uniforms must comply with NFL rules. Every NFL team jersey comes with a different numeral to distinguish one player from another. The numerals, which appear on the front and back of the jersey, are 8 inches high and 4 inches wide.

- Quarterbacks and kickers wear from 1 to 19.
- Running backs and defensive backs wear from 20 to 49.
- Linebackers wear from 50 to 59 or 90 to 99.
- Offensive linemen wear from 60 to 79.
- Defensive linemen wear from 60 to 79 or 90 to 99.
- Receivers wear from 10 to 19 or 80 to 89.

PADS

Pads are necessary to absorb the many physical blows a player takes during a game and protect every part of his body.

HELMETS

- **Mouth Guard:** to protect teeth and prevent players from biting their tongues.
- **Chin straps:** To keep the helmets snugly in place.
- **Air-filled interior pockets:** To prevent serious concussions, many helmets have air-filled pockets inside them.
- **Face masks:** To protect a player's face, which can't be more than 5/8 inch in diameter. Most linemen wear a "cage," which has a bar extending down from the middle and top of the helmet to below the nose area, which joins with two or three bars that extend from both sides that completely prevent an opponent's hands from reaching inside the face area and under the chin. However, quarterbacks and receivers do not wear a cage, because it may impair visibility.
- **Sunshade:** To prevent sun glare from interfering with the player's vision, and to keeps opponents from seeing a player's eyes, which may give the player an advantage because opponents can't see where the player is looking.

SHOES AND CLEATS

Football cleats come in 1/2-inch, 5/8-inch, 3/4-inch, and 1-inch lengths. Selection of the right cleat is important for traction, and is based on the condition of the field, position on the field, and the type of field material.

QUESTION: What kind of uniform do pastors and other people of faith wear; and what kind of protective armor do pastors and other people of faith wear?

ANSWER: There is no consensus among religions on uniforms or armor.

| RELIGIOUS UNIFORM | ARMOR |
|--|--|
| <p data-bbox="414 441 698 472">JEWISH</p> <p data-bbox="446 472 893 535">(left) Haredi Jew wearing a kippah, a tallit, and tefillin</p>  <ul data-bbox="446 567 893 808" style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The tallit is a Jewish prayer shawl ■ A kippah or yarmulke is a thin, slightly-rounded skullcap ■ Tzitzit are fringes or tassels worn by observant Jews ■ Jewish men also wear turbans, tunics, cloaks, and sandals. | <p data-bbox="933 441 1323 472">THE TANAKH/TORAH</p> <p data-bbox="933 472 1323 514">Judaism (seventh century BCE)</p>  |
| <p data-bbox="414 850 698 882">CHRISTIAN</p> <p data-bbox="446 882 893 997">(left) Outer cassock: large flowing garment worn over the inner cassock by bishops, priests, deacons, and monastics.</p> <p data-bbox="446 997 893 1123">■ Clerical collar: There are a variety of options for daily clerical attire, all involving the use of a clerical collar, including:</p> <ul data-bbox="495 1123 893 1207" style="list-style-type: none"> • Collarino (Tab Collar): • Neckband: • Clerical waistcoat or rabat <p data-bbox="446 1207 893 1365">■ Christian men also wear traditional Eastern Orthodoxy and Eastern Catholicism clothing, and contemporary suits, and casual urban clothes</p>   | <p data-bbox="933 850 1136 882">THE BIBLE</p> <p data-bbox="933 882 1274 924">Christianity (first century CE)</p>  |
| <p data-bbox="414 1396 698 1428">MUSLIM</p> <p data-bbox="446 1428 893 1480">(left) Thwab or Thobe: Robe worn by a Muslim man</p> <p data-bbox="446 1480 893 1543">■ Shalwar kameez: Loose fitting pants</p> <p data-bbox="446 1543 893 1638">■ Hijab: Head covering worn in public primarily by Muslim women.</p> <p data-bbox="446 1638 893 1680">■ Khimar: a type of headscarf</p> <p data-bbox="446 1680 893 1795">■ Niqab or Ghutra and Egal: Combination of head covering and scarf covering a woman's entire face except for her eyes.</p>  | <p data-bbox="933 1396 1161 1428">THE QURAN</p> <p data-bbox="933 1428 1258 1470">Islam (seventh century CE)</p>  |

DOES YOUR ARMOR FULLY PROTECT YOU?

There are many important pieces to a football player's uniform. Football is a collision sport, so we begin with the helmet. The head must be protected. In the embryo of this game they didn't wear helmets; finally someone got smart and thought they should protect the head, so they started wearing leather helmets. After a few thousand head injuries, they realized that the leather wasn't cutting it. Ultimately, we have today's product on the field with many technical advances to protect the head.

Although this collision sport has defensive specialists and offensive assassins like 6 foot 4 inch, 324 pound Ndamunkong Suh, nevertheless, scientists could design a full set of armor (i.e., like Marvel Comic's Iron Man) that could prevent physical injuries; but finding an acceptable cost-benefit ratio would likely prevent such, because the primary focus of both collegiate and professional football is not sport, is not entertainment, but to make money. The health and wellbeing of athletes is, at best, a secondary consideration.

The 2009 November 26 Thanksgiving Day game between number three ranked Texas and Texas A & M, offers an excellent illustration of this collision sport with two athletes colliding. Two athletes from these opposing teams on a kick-off return collided head-on. The injured Texas player was senior Deon Beasley, whose hometown is Orange, Texas. The talented Longhorn immediately went limp, collapsed to the ground, motionless, and the official stopped the game. Eventually Beasley was transported to the hospital for X-rays.

The sports announcers said, "the technology and the improvement of the gear have come along way, but not at the same pace as the body and speed of the players." The announcers went on to say, "These collisions are something. You have to respect the courage of these guys who go down there and get involved in these violent collisions." They said that Beasley was a selfless player and had apparently taken his eyes off the ball carrier on the other team, just for a split second – long enough for the collision to occur." Like a car accident, that's how quick and fast these guys are. It only takes a split second to go from star player to comatose in football. The capacity crowd was so quiet from this collision the announcers said "you could hear a pin drop." During the 2009 season the Oklahoma State Head Coach commented, "these collisions today are far greater than they were even five years ago." Clearly, even with this state-of-the-art armor, football players are still at-risk of being badly injured.

Such is also the case with millions of at-risk disciples of Jesus Christ who wear the whole Armor of God, and just for a second take their eyes off of Jesus - just for a tiny minute – a split second, taking their eyes off the Lord - just for one, little hot second, (you're getting the picture, right) folks who take their eyes off of their marriage (adultery) - just for a little minute, who take their eyes off their responsibilities as a parent (incest); for a micro-minute (maybe even a day or two) take their eyes off their walk with the Lord. Not long at all, just long enough to loose their career, dreams and family. It doesn't take long to lose everything you took a lifetime to build. The result is quite devastating.

By wearing God's armor, you're able to avoid adultery, fornication, promiscuity, malice, gossip, lying, stealing, coveting your neighbor's spouse or material possessions, etc. In that spiritual split second of darkness those evils are quite devastating. In

spiritual warfare, a split second is all it takes for Satan (the enemy), to come in and steal everything: your marriage, family, children, job and your life right out from under you.

PROUDLY WEAR GOD'S ARMOR

In football, we can easily distinguish between players and teams with uniforms. Unfortunately, far too often the same cannot be said of people of faith, because religious uniforms vary greatly based on locality, culture, race, climate, and political agendas. Football is so much simpler, less complicated.

In football, if a player steps onto the field not wearing the proper uniform and equipment the athlete is at risk and the entire team is penalized with a 15-yard penalty. The reason for this penalty is to protect athletes and the game of football. Improper uniforms and equipment can lead to confusion on the field, or in a worst-case scenario death. Conversely, some religions are extremely unforgiving and may beat, maim, or kill for the intentional or accidental failure to wear the proper religious dress.

Even players properly suited with ample protection have experienced a robust assortment of broken bones including compound fractures, knocked unconscious, or permanent paralysis. Football has claimed the lives of many amateur and professional athletes, while leaving scores of others with a myriad of life long menacing side effects. You've heard the cliché often used by football players and the media, "the only way I'm leaving this field is that they carry me off."

Let's keep in mind, in most cases, these are statements of hyperbole and should not be taken literally. For some players, being carried off on a stretcher is equivalent to winning the oldest U.S. military award, the Purple Heart, which is given to those wounded or killed while serving. But football is not actual "life or death" combat; football is a sport, a game. Are properly uniformed and protected football players willing to make the ultimate sacrifice - give their life - to make a play, to win the game? How will amateur and professional football players respond if you ask the following question:

IS FOOTBALL WORTH DYING FOR?

Any player who responds in the affirmative that football is worth dying for is mentally disturbed. Here's where the frivolity of football is forever inconsequential to the seriousness of religion, because football is a game, and it's definitely not worth dying for. As with any game, football can be boring, mediocre, or extremely exciting. Plus, given the physicality, football can be kinda hard, kinda rough and kinda rugged, but again, it's a game. Conversely, life is extremely diverse ranging from great success and enormous happiness to the deepest hardships, anguish, and devastation. In a worst-case situation, a careless mistake within or outside of football can result in death, but the armor worn by football players is only physical by function, instead of the ubiquitous and all-consuming armor of the inspired word of God as documented in the Tanakh/Torah, Bible, and Quran - *which permeate all aspects of life and death*.

In this our current state of cultural emergency, inundated with adverse, violent social overtones with more than seventy school shootings since the Newtown school tragedy, punctuated by the massacre at Pulse Night Club in Orlando, Florida and numerous police shootings of unarmed Black men, what happens when a Christian isn't

wearing the proper spiritual armor? As Disciples of Jesus Christ (“Prayer Warriors”) we are committed to praying for others.

Question: What happens when a “Prayer Warriors” fail to wear the full armor of God as described in Ephesians 6:10-17?

Ephesians 6:10-17 (KJV)

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

¹¹ Put on the whole **armour** of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole **armour** of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

What happens if you’re not wearing your spiritual armor and you’re in a combat/war zone? What’s likely to happen when Satan becomes immediately aware of your spiritual vulnerability? **Answer:** you are going to get hurt! Like football coaches who watch hours of game film, our equivalent is reading hours of Scriptures. It’s in this reading that we learn of John 10:10 that Satan’s goal is to “kill, steal and destroy.”

John 10:10 (KJV)

¹⁰ The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

Additionally, Paul explains in Ephesians 6:10-17 that “we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces in heavenly realms.” In this passage of scripture, Paul identifies these dark spiritual forces roaming the cosmos. These dark forces are members of Satan’s incredibly powerful army of rulers, the powerful, and principalities, which are actually his crew of angels. The Bible states this about Satan and his diabolical hosts of spiritual dark horses in II Corinthians 11:14-15 (KJV),

2 Corinthians 11:14-15 (KJV)

¹⁴ And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

¹⁵ Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

CLANDESTINE “CLOAK AND DAGGER” ARMOR

It is much easier to fight an opponent whom you can see and clearly recognize; wearing an easily identifiable uniform is very important. When the opponent or enemy is switching uniforms to the extent that you no longer can recognize who it is, how can one expect to win? Imagine World War II, or any war if our enemies looked like allies or friends, or the good guys. As good guys, they could infiltrate not only our troops, but the communities where we live and where we worship.

People of faith don't wear the same uniform, which makes it very easy to use camouflage to secretly merge into any environment. This is how easy it was at 8:46 am on September 11, 2001 (9/11) for Muslim religious zealots to launch a terrorist suicide campaign to hijack airplanes, pilot and crash these planes into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, and commit the mass murder of 2,996 innocent souls.

- United Airlines Flight #175 crashed into World Trade Center tower 2;
- American Airlines Flight #11 crashed into World Trade Center tower 1;
- United Airlines Flight #93 fell short of crashing into the White House; and
- American Airlines Flight #77 crashed into the Pentagon.

In the wake of 9/11, what if the Apostle Paul, who wrote three fourths of the New Testament, had been invited by President Bush to speak before the survivors and families of the victims? As presented below, surely Apostle Paul would have addressed the clandestine acts of those who deceive, and the greater value of wearing God's armor.

“Dearly and beloved citizens of the United States of America, the name al-Qaeda has been named as the enemy responsible for killing 2,996 of your precious citizens and our father God's precious sheep, injuring over 6,000 of our beloved men and women, and costing over \$3 trillion in damages. The very heart and soul of heaven grieves with you today and the power of Christ is always sufficient. It is Christ our Savior who gives us our strength and assurance in times like these. I join you today in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit to let you know that Jesus Christ is sufficient and He alone is our all in all.

Let not your hearts be troubled. Be not deceived sisters and brothers, we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, rulers of wickedness and evil forces in heavenly realms. We wrestle and struggle not against al-Qaeda and its evil regime of terrorist. Your enemy is far greater than the evil of Osama bin Laden, because his master is truly Satan. Satan cometh to kill you, steal and destroy your great nation.

I once wrote the Lord's flock in Corinth telling them that faith, hope and love abide, but the greatest of these is Love. I say this because God is Love, and Jesus has his disciples to love their enemies. I know your military stands ready and will follow the orders of your President, who I pray for every day, and all your men and women in uniform. May God continue to bless and watch over your great nation. May God be with the families of the 2,966 and others who have been wounded.

As I return to Rome, I leave you with what I wrote the Christians in the holy city of Ephesus, put on the whole armor of God. Never ever take it off. Believe every word inspired by God. Whatever is written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Timothy and the others, believe upon every word. As you press onward towards the mark in Christ Jesus remember, stand firm. Stand firm. Stand firm."

(Hypothetically) Apostle Paul

My Mother used to tell me as a child two very wise things. The first was "Some folk don't believe fat meat is greasy," and the second was "Don't touch the iron. The iron is hot." Some people don't believe the iron is hot. If the Bible states the enemy disguises himself as an angel of light, which translates to priests, pastors, bishops and Church leaders, you had better believe it. Then again, some people don't believe fat meat is greasy, and the iron is hot, and end up getting their hands burned or all greasy from being in contact with greasy meat or hot iron.

At a seminar on clergy ethics the facilitator showed a video about two clergy who each sexually molested over one thousand youth; two pastors molested nearly three thousand children. Could this have been avoided? Perhaps, but church leadership would need to be as thorough and as detailed as the process for vetting football coaches; but even the due diligence and background check given to football coaches is no guarantee. For example, Pennsylvania State University's Coach Jerry Sandusky, was arrested and charged with 52 counts of sexual abuse of young boys over a 15-year period from 1994 to 2009. On June 22, 2012, Sandusky was found guilty on 45 of the 48 remaining charges. Trust but verify.

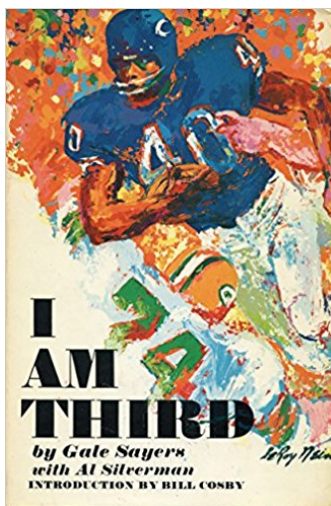
The sad part is when someone is in a war and they don't know it!

On September 10, 2001 unbeknown to the overwhelming majority of citizen of the United States of America, and especially residents of New York City, a terrorist attack occurred on September 11, 2001. Where was the religious armor to prevent this attack?

As with 9/11 and the plethora of mass shootings throughout the United States, too often we find ourselves not wearing the helmet of virtue, breastplate of salvation, the belt of righteousness, or the shield of faith to block the armor piercing rounds of the enemy. The result is death. Preparedness is key in the game of football. Preparedness is what wins games. Unpreparedness is unacceptable in the military, and all of America expects our football teams, like our military, to step on the playing field and combat zones prepared. Clearly, we could all benefit from being well-prepared.

DOES YOUR ARMOR PROTECT OTHERS?

Surely, legendary NFL running back Gayle Sayers captured what it truly means to wear God's armor with the title of his autobiography, "I am Third," which also gave prominence to the statement: **God is first, others are second, and I am third.**



Football does not involve acts of altruism with the opposing team. In football, the objective is to steal the football from the opposing team, to gain yardage from the opposing team, to score points against the opposing team; but helping an opposing player is contrary to the objective of the game. Even if an offensive running back breaks through the defensive line and unintentionally hurts an opposing player, the offensive running back does not stop, turn around, and go back to help the injured defensive player. **Religion is and should be different, but is it?**

With our guards down, doors unlocked, and no conceal and carry permits our neighborhoods look safe and sound, much like Pearl Harbor before being attacked by Japan on December 7, 1941. As President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivered on December 8th in his legendary speech before a Joint Session of Congress, December 7th remains a **“date which will live in infamy,”** but what about the evil perpetrated by the United States against others, such as the genocide of mostly unarmed Native Americans? The list of Native American massacres (Wikipedia.com) is far too robust to present here, but here are just three:

| WHAT | WHERE | WHEN | PERPETRATOR | NUMBER MURDERED | ARMOR WORN |
|-----------------------|------------------|------|--------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Sand Creek Massacre | Eastern Colorado | 1864 | U.S. cavalry | 165 women and children | Unarmed |
| Clear Lake Massacre | Lake County, CA | 1850 | U.S. cavalry | 60 men, women and children | Unarmed |
| Wounded Knee Massacre | South Dakota | 1890 | U.S. cavalry | 150 men, women and children | Unarmed |

You'd be wrong to think this is old news, because the forced or acquiesced incarceration of Native Americans continues on 326 Indian Reservations (internment camps, prisons, etc.) and is as vibrant today as it was in 1824 with the creation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and its predecessor the Office of Indian Trade which was

created in 1806. Currently, 566 Native American tribes are legally recognized by the BIA. *If you didn't know, as far as the federal government is concerned, you're not actually a Native American unless you've been "officially" recognized as such by the BIA.* And, yes, without regard to a tribe's history and culture, the BIA has and can unilaterally delete tribes from its roster. In other words, you're only a Native American if we (White people) tell you so. The armor of White privilege is omnipotent in its dominance over all aspects of the lives of people of color.

As reported by the latimes.com, "The term 'mass shooting' is imprecise," said Grant Duwe, director of research at the Minnesota Department of Corrections and the author of, "A History of Mass Murder in the United States." Instead, Duwe said, these very public murders recognized as mass shootings, are "mass public shootings." Mass public shootings take place in public or semipublic places such as schools or entertainment venues, and are not a byproduct of another type of crime, such as a robbery, a gang turf war or an act of domestic violence. **Murder is the goal.**

In the United State, wearing God's armor has clearly been used more consistently and effectively to protect White privilege than to actually comply with the egalitarian principles that define the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. In this regard, the separation of church and state has empowered White privilege to completely ignore any responsibility for protecting all of God's people with God's armor. The "manifest destiny" of the U.S. government was conquest of the entire North American continental landmass, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, and killing, enslaving, and oppressing all people of color was, at best, an inconvenience. How soon we forget that Jesus used his armor, his life, to save all of humanity:

Luke 23:34 (KJV)

³⁴ Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

Instead of wearing "armor" to protect others, it's always been the law and practice of the U.S. to take the role of victim whenever challenged for its failure to practice the egalitarian principles it preaches. *Why wasn't God's armor used to prevent the blatant genocide of Native Americans, enslavement of Black people, and racist acts against all people of color?* The list of massacres and related crimes against people of color (Wikipedia.com) is far too robust to present here, but here are just three:

| WHAT | WHERE | WHEN | PERPETRATOR | NUMBER MURDERED | RACE | ARMOR WORN |
|-----------------------|------------|------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Rock Springs Massacre | Wyoming | 1885 | White men and women | 28 Chinese immigrant laborers | Asian | None |
| Tulsa Race Riots | Tulsa, OK | 1921 | White mob | 50 to 300 people | Black | None |
| Elaine Massacre | Elaine, AR | 1919 | White mob | 200 people | Black | None |

**If you believe in God,
and if you're wearing God's armor,
you have an obligation
not only to protect yourself,
but to protect others.**

- tripoeetry.com

ALL LIVES MATTER, AND MUST BE PROTECTED BY GOD'S ARMOR

Of course, all lives matter, but the extremely high frequency of unarmed Black men being killed by police throughout the United States became the genesis for the "Black Lives Matter" movement. Again, of course, "all lives matter" but unarmed White women and unarmed White men have not been unilaterally killed by police as often, in broad daylight and on video, and without judge or jury, nor as conveniently as have Black men, Black women, and even Black children. Clearly, not all police officers are bad, or racist, but far too often so-called God-fearing White police officers, who are sworn to protect, do not give any consideration of God's armor to protect the lives of people of color.

Sadly, throughout the U.S. people of color have always been presented as less smart, less educated, less willing to work, less willing to take responsibility for their families, less willing to be productive members of society, and the aforementioned negative stereotypes permeate all aspects of American society. Unfortunately, it's the practice of the media, politicians, and the business leaders to ignore the truth, or to "spin the truth" to promote a negative picture, a consistently negative profile of people of color. So, let's look at the bigger picture. Let's look at the facts.

Presented below is a fairly robust list of mass murderers in U.S. where more than six people were killed at one time. **What should we conclude from this data?**

| WHERE | WHEN | PERPETRATOR | AGE | RACE | KILLED | INJURED |
|---|--------------------------|--|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Orlando, FL Pulse Nightclub | JUNE 12, 2016 | Omar Saddiqui Mateen | 29 | White | 50 | 53 |
| Blacksburg, VA Virginia Tech | April 16, 2007 | Seung-Hui Cho | 23 | Asian | 33 | 17 |
| Newtown, CT Sandy Hook Elementary School | December 12, 2012 | Adam Lanza | 20 | White | 27 | 2 |
| Killeen, TX Luby's Cafeteria | October 16, 1991 | George Hennard White male | 35 | White | 23 | 27 |
| San Ysidro, CA McDonald's | July 18, 1984 | James Huberty | 41 | White | 21 | 19 |
| Austin, TX University of Texas | August 1, 1966 | Charles Joseph Whitman | 25 | White | 14 | 32 |
| San Bernardino, CA Inland Regional Center | December 2, 2015 | Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik | 28 29 | White White | 14 | 24 |
| Edmond, OK | August 20, | Patrick Henry | 45 | White | 15 | 20 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Post Office | 1986 | Sherrill | | | | |
| Fort Hood, TX Shooting Range | November 5, 2009 | Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan | 39 | White | 13 | 32 |
| Binghamton, NY Immigrant Community Center | April 3, 2009 | Jiverly Wong | 42 | Asian | 14 | 4 |
| Littleton, CO Columbine High School | April 20, 1999 | Eric Harris Dylan Klebold | 18 17 | White White | 13 | 24 |
| Seattle, WA Wah Mee Gambling Club | February 18, 1983 | Kwan Fai Mak Benjamin Ng Wai-Chiu "Tony" Ng | 22 20 26 | Asian Asian Asian | 13 | 1 |
| Wilkes-Barre, PA | September 25, 1982 | George Banks | 40 | Bi-racial | 13 | 1 |
| Camden, NJ 32 nd Street | September 5, 1949 | Howard Unruh | 28 | White | 13 | 3 |
| Washington | September 16, 2013 | Aaron Alexis | 34 | Black | 13 | 8 |
| Aurora, CO Movie Theater | July 20, 2012 | James E. Holmes | 24 | White | 12 | 70 |
| Atlanta, GA Residence & 2 brokerage houses | July 29, 1999 | Mark Barton | 44 | White | 13 | 13 |
| Jacksonville, FL GMAC Office | June 18, 1990 | James Pough | 42 | Black | 12 | 6 |
| Kinston, AL Residence | March 10, 2009 | Michael McLendon | 28 | White | 11 | 6 |
| Roseburg, OR Umpqua Community College | October 1, 2015 | Chrisopher Sean Harper-Mercer | 26 | Bi-racial | 10 | 9 |
| Red Lake, MN Red Lake High School | March 21, 2005 | Jeff Weise | 16 | Ojibwe Native American | 9 | 5 |
| Waddell, AZ Buddhist temple | August 10, 1991 | Johnathan Doody Alessandro Garcia | 17 16 | Asian Latino | 9 | None |
| Manchester, CT Hartford Distributors | August 3, 2010 | Omar Thornton | 34 | Black | 9 | 2 |
| Omaha, NE Shopping Mall | December 5, 2007 | Robert Hawkins | 19 | White | 9 | 6 |
| Louisville, KY Standard Gravure Corporation | September 14, 1989 | Joseph Wesbecker | 47 | White | 9 | 12 |
| San Francisco, CA | July 1, 1993 | Gian Luigi Ferri | 55 | White | 9 | 6 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|--------------|----------|-------------|
| Law Office | | | | | | |
| Appomattox, VA Residence | January 19, 2010 | Christopher Speight | 39 | White | 8 | None |
| Seal Beach, CA Salon Meritage | October 12, 2011 | Scott Evans Dekraai | 41 | White | 8 | 1 |
| Carthage, NC Nursing Home | March 29, 2009 | Robert Stewart | 45 | White | 8 | 3 |
| Hialeah, FL | August 20, 1982 | Carl Robert Brown | 51 | White | 8 | 3 |
| DeKalb, IL Northern Illinois University | February 14, 2008 | Steven Kazmierczak | 27 | White | 6 | 21 |

Source: Wikipedia.com / murderpedia.com

Not mentioned in the above list is the massacre of nine Black people by White racist Dylann Roof at the Emanuel African American Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina on Wednesday, June 17, 2015 at 9:05 p.m. The incident took place during a traditional Wednesday Night Bible Study led by Pastor and South Carolina State Senator Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney (41), who was also murdered.



Clementa C. Pinckney (41) – the church's pastor and a South Carolina state senator.

Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd (54) – Bible study member and manager for the Charleston County Public Library system; sister of Malcolm Graham.

Susie Jackson (87) – a Bible study and church choir member.

Ethel Lee Lance (70) – the church's sexton.

Depayne Middleton-Doctor (49) – a pastor who was also employed as a school administrator and admissions coordinator at Southern Wesleyan University.

Tywanza Sanders (26) – a Bible study member; grandnephew of Susie Jackson.

Daniel Simmons (74) – a pastor who also served at Greater Zion AME Church in Awendaw.

Sharonda Coleman-Singleton (45) – a pastor; also a speech therapist and track coach at Goose Creek High School.

Myra Thompson (59) – a Bible study teacher.

So, again, given the aforementioned listing of mass murderers, what should we conclude from this data?

| | WHITE | ASIAN | BLACK | LATINO | NATIVE AMERICAN | BI-RACIAL | TOTAL |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-----------------|-----------|-------|
| Number | 24 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 37 |
| Percent | 64.86 | 16.22 | 8.11 | 2.70 | 2.70 | 5.41 | 100% |

With 64.86% of mass murders committed by White men, why is so much effort spent on *profiling and incarcerating Black men*? Of course, not all White men are murderers; so profiling the overwhelming majority of White men as murderers, rapists, philanderers, and racists is ridiculous, *or is it?*

Adolf Hitler
Killed
6,000,000+

Albert "Boston Strangler" DeSalvo
Killed 13

Charles Manson
Killed 8

David "Son of Sam" Berkowitz
Killed 6

Jeffrey Dahmer
Killed 17

Rev. Jim Jones
Killed 912

Dylan Klebold
Jointly Killed 15 Students

Eric Harris
Jointly Killed 15 Students

Ted Bundy
Killed 36

President Harry S. Truman
Killed 250,000

Bin Laden
Killed 3,000+

Timothy McVeigh
Killed 268

John Wayne Gacy
Killed 33

John Rucker
Killed Respect

Jimmy Swaggart
Killed Faith

Not all White men are bad, but . . .

JUST BECAUSE YOU WEAR ARMOR

With football, it's appropriate to "assume" the quarterback will throw a "touch down" pass immediately upon locating a wide receiver who's wearing a corresponding team uniform in the in zone. However, beyond the limited scope of football, just because someone wears the same uniform (age, race, sex, creed, nationality, religion, etc.) they're not necessarily your friend *or enemy*. As people of faith, we are all God's children, and to assume the worst of any man or woman gives evidence of our failure to protect the lives of all people wearing God's armor.

Looking beyond football, we label and identify each other by our uniforms and armor. We identify ourselves and each other based on our age, race, sex, height, weight, creed, nationality, religion, job, school, neighborhood, cars, and other kinds of "uniforms." Plus, it's a common practice to make judgments based on what we've learned and experienced, *and* what we've been told, which is often hearsay, about certain kinds of people, places, and things. So, we're often *guilty of profiling*, and sadly, we often draw erroneous conclusions based on actual or perceived information.

- **Just because** one man rapes a woman, it doesn't make all men rapists.
- **Just because** one woman's a gold digger, it doesn't make all women gold diggers.
- **Just because** one White male sports commentator called the victory by a Native American Winnebago high school basketball team a "Firewater Win," doesn't make all White men racist.
- **Just because** one teenager vandalizes property, it doesn't make all teenagers vandals.
- **Just because** the clear majority of companies do not hire or promote women and minorities and they continue to support the on-going existence of the "glass ceiling," the same is not true for all companies.
- **Just because** more than 60,000,000 Black people were included in the slave trade and tortured, and raped, and killed by White people - and then confined to the poorest schools, the lowest paying jobs, and the worst neighborhoods, it doesn't mean that all White people have tortured, raped and killed Black people or discriminated against them.
- **Just because** many White people continue to actively demonstrate a propensity to kill and discriminate against Black people such as:
 - April 26, 2014 - Racist comments by Donald Sterling, former owner of the NBA Los Angeles Clippers
 - August 9, 2014 - Fatal shooting of unarmed Michael Brown by a White policeman in Ferguson, Missouri
 - December 2, 2014 - Fatal shooting of unarmed Romain Brisbon by a White policeman in Phoenix, Arizona
 - March 6, 2015 - Fatal shooting of unarmed Tony Robinson by a White policemen in Madison, Wisconsin
 - March 11, 2015 - Video showing Sigma Alpha Epsilon members

vibrantly chanting and singing "nigger" and lynching to promote anti-Black membership.

- January 22, 2016 - As posted on Snapchat and Twitter, a group of seniors at the Desert Vista High School in Phoenix, Arizona, seen in a photo wearing shirts spelling out "N-I-(G)-(G)-E-R.
- The ongoing killing of unarmed Black men, women, and children.

- **Again, just because** the clear majority of the most atrocious, most heinous crimes, murders and loss of human life have been directly caused by White men, it doesn't mean that all White men are atrocious and heinous.

ARE YOU WILLING TO DIE FOR YOUR FAITH?

Generally, people will die to protect their spouse, siblings, children, members of their family, and some friends and even complete strangers. Historically, from the Crusades to 9/11 and beyond, many people are definitely willing to die for their faith, and they proudly wear their faith as their armor. In this regard, again, all lives matter; from the 2,996 people of various racial and ethnic groups killed on 9/11 to the fact that on average, an **"unarmed black man"** was fatally shot by police every nine days in the first seven months of 2015, and that police officers, security guards, or self-appointed vigilantes extrajudicially (without legal authorization) killed at least 313 Black people in 2012 (*Source: mxgm.org*). In spiritual warfare, the person doing the shooting is not the issue, it's the bigger picture of power, which we must concern ourselves.

Ephesians 6:12 (KJV)

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

Again, to successfully stand against evil schemes, conniving strategies, dastardly plots, nefarious plans, and those fiery darts and arrows from hell that pierce through the souls of good men and women, the Apostle Paul tells us to put on the whole armor of God.

Ephesians 6:11 (KJV)

¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

We must wear the armor of God when we go into battle. At no point does Paul's letter to the Christians gathered in Ephesus give instructions to take off the armor, or to let your back face the enemy. In war or any kind of physical or mental conflict, the soldier never stands with his back to the enemy. The point being, one *might* get hurt wearing helmets and pads, but one is guaranteed to get hurt, intentionally or accidently,

from failure to wear God's armor, or equally disastrous, standing or kneeling with your back facing the enemy.

LESSONS DR. REYNOLDS LEARNED FROM WEARING GOD'S ARMOR

I recall several years ago in college, having trouble with one of my thigh pads. One or both kept sliding loose and coming out of the pocket. It was necessary to wrap tape around my entire left and right thighs to keep the pads in place. After several games playing with this faulting equipment, I stopped using tape because it kept coming off. At the time, I was an 18 year old with a pair of strong muscular thighs. Those quads and hamstrings ran a 10.5 hundred, a 21 second 200 and a 47 second 400 meters. Unfortunately, the inevitable happened. One game I took a solid hit on the outer left thigh, and the impact nearly shattering the femur. That hit ended my football aspirations for good.

Later that summer I had the opportunity to meet the defensive back who hit me. The game was against Hutchinson Community Junior College. At that time Hutch was ranked fourth in the nation. I was doing pretty good, starting to get the offense moving – on my way to the end-zone. At a friends home we were a bunch of guys talking football and about that game in particular. One of the young men commented, "Yeah, I remember that game. They had this real cold back. He was killing us. He was really doing it. I had to shut that brother down." I very clearly recall being shut down that evening and my leg being nearly broken; an injury that continued to bother me the following season. I told the young man, "That guy you put out of the game, was me." He was apologetic, but said, "Hey man, I had to do, what I had to do. You were getting a lot of yards, and well, you know." I replied, "I understand. You did your thing, no problem man."

That injury was life altering as far as football was concerned. The possibility of Oklahoma State University picking me up as they had informed me seemed bleak at best. Instead, I resumed running track and became an All-American sprinter at North Central College under the legendary Al Carius, a member of the Illinois Track and Cross Country Coaches Hall of Fame, the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame, the Chicagoland Sports Hall of Fame and the Drake Relays Hall of Fame; plus Carius was honored as cross country "Coach of the Century," as well as being named NCAA Division III Cross Country Coach of the Year in 1993, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2014 and 2016.

So what does all of this have to do with this chapter, "The Uniform – The Armor" or with "Lessons Learned Wearing God's Armor"? Simply put, I had faith in my ability to be an excellent running back, and I was, so I also worn the armor of confidence. However, I also learned that ability and confidence is not necessarily enough to overcome some challenges,

especially if the false armor of pride is allowed to corrupt your corresponding ability to think and reason; your intellect. Accordingly as discussed in Chapter 5, "Coaching Intellect versus Instinct," I instinctively knew it was in my best interest to shift gears, to embrace other abilities I was fortunate to receive from God. Lesson learned.

- Rev. Dr. Wayne M. Reynolds

NOTHING CAN STOP YOU FROM WEARING GOD'S ARMOR

"The Tebow Rule" took effect in the 2010 college football season. Throughout his career, Tim Tebow, who won the Heisman Trophy in 2007 but later failed to be a standout player in the NFL, frequently wore Biblical verses under the black reflective eye paint under his eyes. During the 2009 BCS Championship Game, he wore John 3:16 on his eye paint, which was an apex example of how to merge football with religious theology.

Tebow was a college icon and fully understood the power of his position, as he sent his message out to the 92 million people who watched the game. Of course, many people were curious about "John 3:16" and immediately went online to their favorite search engines, which resulted in an Internet search record. Tebow later switched to another verse and over 3 million people searched the net for Proverbs 3:5-6, which states, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding, in all they ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths." Tebow used his position and this national platform to share God's Word. The position of quarterback is a position of leadership and influence.

However, football is about football, and the NCAA banned any such expression by players or coaches, because failure to do so would permit the posting of any expression, such as:

- I hate God.
- It's not TV. It's HBO.
- AdamandEve.com
- Jake's Plumbing
- For a good time call 696-969-6969
- Ford: Quality is Job One!
- Nike.

Clearly, without prohibitions, football players and coaches could post anything, including profanity, on their bodies, and they could receive compensation, even commercial sponsorship for doing so. The NFL already had such a rule in effect prohibiting players from putting any "exposed" messages on their bodies. Clearly, both the NCAA and the NFL do not want and will not allow their "uniforms" to be corrupted, by anyone, for any reason.

The separation between church and state is also true for football. However, if you can't physically wear God's uniform, there's nothing to prevent you from wearing

God's armor with your mind, using God's armor to guide develop and guide your body, and channeling God's spirit to drive and sustain you. Absolutely nothing can stop you from wearing God's armor. **Nothing.**

ALWAYS WEAR GOD'S UNIFORM AND GOD'S ARMOR

Amateur football is primarily played on the weekend, and the same is mostly true for professional football. Conversely, Christians must deal with life's adversity on any day, every day, and therefore, cannot afford to remove uniforms and armor. As a matter of Biblical record, the uniform or "spiritual clothes" for Christians is found here:

| | SCRIPTURE (KJV) | VERSE |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Job 29:14 <i>Righteousness is like unto a jewel.</i> | ¹⁴ I put on righteousness, and it clothed me: my judgment was as a robe and a diadem. |
| 2. | Psalms 132:16 <i>Leaders of faith will shout God's message with joy.</i> | ¹⁶ I will also clothe her priests with salvation: and her saints shall shout aloud for joy. |
| 3. | Isaiah 61:10 <i>The uniforms of those faithful to God are decorated in righteousness.</i> | ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh <i>himself</i> with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth <i>herself</i> with her jewels. |
| 4. | John 3:16 <i>Belief is an important garment of salvation.</i> | ¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. |
| 5. | Romans 10:9 <i>A garment of salvation is verbal confession coupled with a belief that God in fact raised Jesus from the dead.</i> | ⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. |
| 6. | Philippians 2:8 <i>A garment of salvation is obedience</i> | ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. |
| 7. | Proverbs 31:25 <i>Additional spiritual clothing is given to us in the Old Testament</i> | ²⁵ Strength and honour <i>are</i> her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. |
| 8. | 1 Corinthians 13:13 <i>Ultimately, the Christian is clothed with the Word</i> | ¹³ And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these <i>is</i> charity. |

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| | <i>of God, wearing a uniform of faith, hope, and love</i> | |
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Often, the best solution to any problem or challenge is to simply take time to think, think before acting. From a business perspective this means conducting “due diligence” to evaluate options before acting, which is why “The Golden Rule” (Luke 6:31) should be the very first consideration before taking any action.

Luke 6:31 (KJV)

³¹ And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

Here’s where the insightful words of French mathematician, physicist, inventor, writer and Christian philosopher Blaise Pascal (June 19, 1623 – 19 August 19, 1662) nicely summarize how best we might wear the right uniform and the right mental armor to successfully do God’s will on earth.

All human evil comes from a single cause, man’s inability to sit still in a room.
Blaise Pascal

If you gain, you gain all. If you lose, you lose nothing. Wager then, without hesitation, that He exists.
Blaise Pascal

Faith is different from proof; the latter is human, the former is a Gift from God.
Blaise Pascal

THE BOTTOM LINE: THE UNIFORM – THE ARMOR – The Bible encourages us to be dressed and properly protected, and wearing our uniform and armor is non-negotiable. The absence of the uniform and armor is the guarantee of disappointment and failure on many different levels. Wearing the whole armor, the complete and full uniform and armor of God, covering the entire body, mind and soul is a “football mentality.” If your armor does not fully protect you, then you need to step up and become a better Christian, which includes using your Christian armor to protect others.



Why? Just because some people wear the same uniform as you do, they might not share all or even some of your beliefs. Keep in mind, all lives matter, and must be protected by God’s armor. Jesus used his armor to protect all of humanity, and in return for our salvation, and other lessons we’re learned from wearing the uniform and armor of our faith, we should at least strive to be as willing to do unto others as we would have others to do for us. With our commitment to continuously wear God’s armor, nothing can stop us. **Nothing.**

CHAPTER SEVEN

RELIGIOUS CONCEPTS ARE KINDA BASED ON SCRIPTURE, AND THEREFORE, COMPLIANCE IS ONLY KINDA IMPORTANT

SO YOU CAN PICK AND CHOSE WHAT YOU WANT TO DO OR BELIEVE

TELL THEM - There are 23,145 verses in the Old Testament and 7,957 in the New Testament for a total of 31,102 scriptures (i.e., plays). *That's a lot of plays*, and significantly more than any corresponding amateur or professional football playbook. Presented below are scriptures that have been used by hundreds of football players and coaches throughout America in support of their "offense" or "defense." **The problem? You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink.**

| CONCEPT (KINDA) | SCRIPTURES FOR OFFENSE |
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| CARING | I Corinthians 12:25 KJV, "That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another." |
| COMMITMENT | Acts 20:32, "Now I commit you to God and to the Word of His grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified." |
| COMPASSION | I Peter 3:8, "Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble." |
| CONTENTMENT | Philippians 4:11 (NIV), "I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whatever well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything (all things) through Christ who strengthens me." |
| CHARITY | Luke 6:38, "Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." |
| ETERNAL LIFE | John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." |

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| FORGIVENESS | Matthew 18:21, “ Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times? Jesus answered, I tell you not seven times, but seventy-seven times.” |
| FRUITFULNESS | 2 Peter 1:8, “For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” |
| GOODNESS | Galatians 5:22, “The fruit of the spirit is Goodness,.” |
| GENTLENESS | Galatians 5:22, “The fruit of the spirit is Gentleness. |
| HOSPITALITY | 1 Peter 4:9, “Offer hospitality to one another.” |
| MERCY | Matthew 5:7, “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” |
| OBEDIENCE | 1 Samuel 15:22, “To obey is better than sacrifice.” |

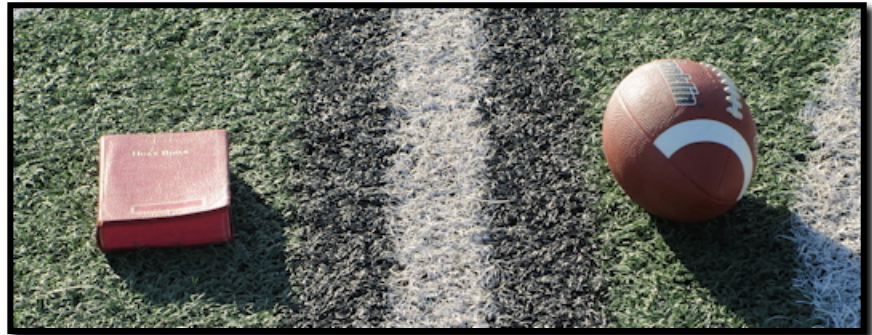
| CONCEPT | SCRIPTURES FOR DEFENSE |
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| GRACE | 2 Corinthians 12:9, “My grace is sufficient for you” |
| HOPE | Hebrews 6:19, “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. |
| LONGSUFFERING | Galatians 5:22, “The fruit of the spirit is Long Suffering,…” |
| FAITH | Hebrews 11:1, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.” |
| FAITHFULNESS | Galatians 5:22, “The fruit of the spirit is kindness, goodness, <i>Faithfulness</i> .” |
| HOLY SPIRIT | Luke 12:12, “The Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.” |
| HONESTY | Proverbs 12:17, “A truthful witness gives honest testimony.” |
| MEEKNESS | Matthew 5:5, “Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth.” |
| PEACE | Galatians 5:22, “The fruit of the spirit is peace.” |
| RIGHTEOUSNESS | Psalms 34:15, “The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous.” |
| SALVATION | Acts 4:12, “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no |

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| | other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” |
| TEMPERANCE | Galatians 5:22, “The fruit of the spirit is temperance (Self-Control) |
| TRUST | Proverbs 3:5, “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding and in all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths and make them straight.” |
| UNDERSTANDING | Proverbs 23:23, “Get wisdom, discipline and understanding.” |
| WISDOM | Proverbs 23:23, “Get wisdom.” |
| WORKS | James 2:26, “Faith without works is dead.” |

| CONCEPT | SCRIPTURES FOR OFFENSE & DEFENSE |
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| LOVE | I Corinthians 13:13, “The greatest of these is love.” |
| HUMILITY | 1 Peter 5:5, “Clothe yourselves in humility.” |
| JOY | I Thessalonians 5:16, “Be joyful always.” |
| PATIENCE | Galatians 5:22, “The fruit of the spirit is patience.” |
| PRAISE | Psalms 106:1, “Praise the Lord” |
| REPENTANCE | Acts 2:38, “Repent and be baptized every one of you.” |
| SELF-DENIAL | Luke 9:23, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” |
| THANKFULNESS | I Thessalonians 5:18, “Give thanks in all circumstances (in everything) |
| WORD OF GOD | Deuteronomy 8:3 & Matthew 4:4, “Jesus answered, It is written, Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” |
| WORSHIP | John 4:24, “God is a spirit, and they that worshipers Him, must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” |

THE BOTTOM LINE: RELIGIOUS CONCEPTS ARE KINDA BASED ON SCRIPTURE, AND THEREFORE, COMPLIANCE IS ONLY KINDA IMPORTANT –

Yes, with 31,102 scriptures, surely, there's an appropriate thought or two that's pertinent to your life-situation. Plus, even if you don't believe in God, whether you're on a football field or not, what's so bad about treating someone the way you'd like them to treat you?



CHAPTER EIGHT

FOOTBALL QUOTES ARE BETTER THAN SCRIPTURE

TELL THEM WHAT YOU TOLD THEM - Again, with 31,102 scriptures, surely, there's an appropriate thought or two that's pertinent to your life-situation. Yes, America's elite and greatest coaches *routinely borrow* from the highly set bar of religious scripture, principles, and purpose, including the confidence born from having a Ziklag mentality. **However, football quotes are far more relevant and instructive.**

| | INSPIRATIONAL FOOTBALL QUOTES | LEGENDARY BIBLICAL SCRIPTURES |
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| 1. | "The odds are always against you no matter what your previous history is. You have to overcome the tendency to relax." – Tom Osborne | Romans 12:21 (KJV) ²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. |
| 2. | "When you coach as long as I did, you can't help but miss those Saturdays – dealing with the players, the game preparation, the challenges, the excitement." – Tom Osborne | Proverbs 3:2 (KJV) ² For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. |
| 3. | "Our people were not happy. I knew at some point we were going to win. It's a little unfair, but that's the reality. To some degree, it became a one-game season for some folks." – Tom Osborne | Job 5:17 (KJV) ¹⁷ Behold, happy <i>is</i> the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty: <hr/> Psalm 127:5 (KJV) ⁵ Happy <i>is</i> the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate. <hr/> Romans 14:22 (KJV) ²² Hast thou faith? have <i>it</i> to thyself before God. Happy <i>is</i> he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. <hr/> 1 Peter 3:14 (KJV) ¹⁴ But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy <i>are</i> ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; |
| 4. | "Rarely do you have everything come together, a good supporting class and that key quarterback there for three years. Anytime you break in a quarterback, no matter how talented it's hard to go out and win every game." – Tom Osborne | Philippians 3:8 (KJV) ⁸ Yea doubtless, and I count all things <i>but</i> loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them <i>but</i> dung, that I may win Christ, |
| 5. | "Increases, over time, outpace reductions." – Tom Osborne | Joshua 1:8 (KJV) ⁸ This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to |

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| | | do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. |
| 6. | “The fans use to think Oklahoma was the enemy. They actually made us better.” – Tom Osborne | Matthew 5:11 (KJV) ¹¹ Blessed are ye, when <i>men</i> shall revile you, and persecute <i>you</i> , and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. |
| 7. | “Any time you give a man something he doesn’t earn, you cheapen him. Our kids earn what they get, and that includes respect.” – Woody Hayes | Proverbs 9:9 (KJV) ⁹ Give <i>instruction</i> to a wise <i>man</i> , and he will be yet wiser: teach a just <i>man</i> , and he will increase in learning. |
| 8. | “Bear Bryant’s three rules for coaching: 1) Surround yourself with people who can’t live without football. 2) Recognize winners. They come in all forms. 3) Have a plan for everything.” – Bear Bryant | Exodus 24:7 (KJV) ⁷ And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient. |
| 9. | “When a team outgrows individual performance and learns team confidence, excellence becomes a reality.” - Joe Paterno | Psalm 118:8 (KJV) ⁸ <i>It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.</i> <hr/> Psalm 118:9 (KJV) ⁹ <i>It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.</i> <hr/> Proverbs 3:26 (KJV) ²⁶ For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken. <hr/> 2 Corinthians 7:16 (KJV) ¹⁶ I rejoice therefore that I have confidence in you in all <i>things</i> . <hr/> 1 John 5:14 (KJV) ¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: |
| 10. | “Success is never final, but failure can be.” – Bill Paracells | Joshua 1:8 (KJV) ⁸ This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. |
| 11. | “Life is ten percent what happens to you and ninety percent how you respond to it.” – Lou Holtz | Proverbs 12:21 (KJV) ²¹ There shall no evil happen to the just: but the wicked shall be filled with mischief. |
| 12. | “If you burn your neighbors house down, it doesn’t make your house look any better.” – Lou | Psalm 37:16 (KJV) ¹⁶ A little that a righteous man hath <i>is better</i> |

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| | Holtz | <p>than the riches of many wicked.</p> <hr/> <p>Proverbs 16:8 (KJV) ⁸ Better <i>is</i> a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.</p> <hr/> <p>Proverbs 25:24 (KJV) ²⁴ <i>It is</i> better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.</p> |
| 13. | “The will to win is important, but the will to prepare is vital.” – Joe Paterno | <p>1 Samuel 30:1 (KJV) ¹ And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire;</p> |
| 14. | “I think everyone should experience defeat at least once during their career. You learn from it.” – Lou Holtz | <p>Romans 12:19 (KJV) ¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but <i>rather</i> give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance <i>is</i> mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.</p> |
| 15. | “In the successful organization, no detail is too small to escape close attention.” – Lou Holtz | <p>Isaiah 28:23 (KJV) ²³ Give ye ear, and hear my voice; hearken, and hear my speech.</p> |
| 16. | “Believe deep down in your heart that you’re destined to do great things.” – Joe Paterno | <p>Matthew 5:8 (KJV) ⁸ Blessed <i>are</i> the pure in heart: for they shall see God.</p> |
| 17. | “Ability is what you’re capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.” – Lou Holtz | <p>Philippians 4:13 (KJV) ¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.</p> |
| 18. | “We compete, not so much against an opponent, but against ourselves. The real test is this: Did I make my best effort on every play?” – Bud Wilkinson | <p>Philippians 2:3 (KJV) ³ <i>Let</i> nothing <i>be done</i> through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.</p> |
| 19. | “Its not the will to win, but the will to prepare that makes the difference.” – Bear Bryant | <p>Proverbs 24:27 (KJV) ²⁷ Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build thine house.</p> |
| 20. | “Motivation is simple. You eliminate those who are not motivated.” – Lou Holtz | <p>Colossians 3:23 (KJV) ²³ And whatsoever ye do, do <i>it</i> heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;</p> |
| 21. | “Coaching isn’t a great mystery. Its just hard work, determination, and inspiration at the right moment.” – Bob Zuppke | <p>2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV) ¹⁶ All scripture <i>is</i> given by inspiration of God, and <i>is</i> profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.</p> |

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| 22. | "Don't tell your problems to people: eighty percent don't care; and the other twenty percent are glad you have them." – Lou Holtz | Proverbs 25:9 (KJV) ⁹ Debate thy cause with thy neighbour <i>himself</i> , and discover not a secret to another: |
| 23. | "The superior man blames himself. The inferior man blames others." – Don Shula | Proverbs 28:13 (KJV) ¹³ He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh <i>them</i> shall have mercy. |
| 24. | "It is a fine thing to have ability, but the ability to discover ability in others is the best test." – Lou Holtz | Proverbs 25:2 (KJV) ² <i>It is</i> the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings <i>is</i> to search out a matter. |
| 25. | "Its not the load that breaks you down – it's the way you carry it." – Lou Holtz | Galatians 6:1-2 (KJV) ¹ Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. ² Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. |
| 26. | "The man who complains about the way the ball bounces is likely the one who dropped it." – Lou Holtz | Philippians 2:14 (KJV) ¹⁴ Do all things without murmurings and disputings: |
| 27. | "If what you did yesterday seems big, you haven't done anything today." – Lou Holtz | John 3:16 (KJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. |
| 28. | "You'll never get ahead of anyone as long as you try to get even with him." – Lou Holtz | Romans 12:19-21 (KJV) ¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but <i>rather</i> give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance <i>is</i> mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. ²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. |
| 29. | "Show me someone who has done something worth while, and I'll show you someone who has overcome adversity." – Lou Holtz | 1 Peter 5:10-11 (KJV) ¹⁰ But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle <i>you</i> . ¹¹ To him <i>be</i> glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. |
| 30. | "No one has ever drowned in sweat." – Lou Holtz | 2 Thessalonians 3:10 (KJV) ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. |

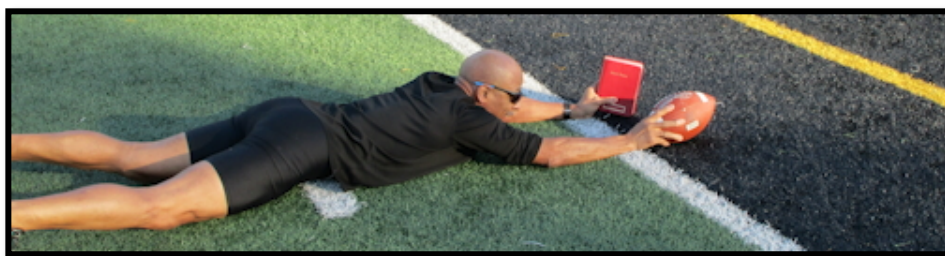
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| 31. | "I never learned anything talking. I only learn things when I ask questions. – Lou Holtz | <p>Proverbs 18:1-9 (KJV)</p> <p>¹ Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh <i>and</i> intermeddleth with all wisdom.</p> <p>² A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself.</p> <p>³ When the wicked cometh, <i>then</i> cometh also contempt, and with ignominy reproach.</p> <p>⁴ The words of a man's mouth <i>are</i> as deep waters, <i>and</i> the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook.</p> <p>⁵ <i>It is</i> not good to accept the person of the wicked, to overthrow the righteous in judgment.</p> <p>⁶ A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.</p> <p>⁷ A fool's mouth <i>is</i> his destruction, and his lips <i>are</i> the snare of his soul.</p> <p>⁸ The words of a talebearer <i>are</i> as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.</p> <p>⁹ He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.</p> |
| 32. | "If you're bored with life – you don't get up every morning with a burning desire to do things – you don't have enough goals." – Lou Holtz | <p>Philippians 3:13-14 (KJV)</p> <p>¹³ Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but <i>this</i> one thing <i>I do</i>, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,</p> <p>¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.</p> |
| 33. | "You're never as good as everyone tells you when you win, and you're never as bad as they say when you lose." – Lou Holtz | <p>John 8:32-33 (KJV)</p> <p>³² And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.</p> |
| 34. | "I can't believe God put us on this earth to be ordinary." – Lou Holtz | <p>Philippians 4:13 (KJV)</p> <p>¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.</p> |
| 35. | "No matter how much you've won, no matter how many games, no matter how many championships, no matter how many Super Bowls, you're not winning now, so you stink." – Bill Parcells | <p>2 Corinthians 12:9 (KJV)</p> <p>⁹ And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.</p> |
| 36. | "Don't be a spectator, don't let life pass you by." – Lou Holtz | <p>Romans 5:20 (KJV)</p> <p>²⁰ Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:</p> |
| 37. | "There is winning and there is misery." – Bill | <p>Psalms 34:18 (KJV)</p> |

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| | Parcells | ¹⁸ The LORD <i>is</i> nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. |
| 38. | “There’s nothing that cleanses your soul like getting the hell kicked out of you.” – Woody Hayes | John 15:18 (KJV) ¹⁸ If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before <i>it hated</i> you. |
| 39. | “Do right. Do your best. Treat others as you want to be treated.” – Lou Holtz | Luke 6:31 (KJV) ³¹ And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. |
| 40. | “Paralyze resistance with persistence.” – Woody Hayes | Galatians 6:9 (KJV) ⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. |
| 41. | “You need to play with supreme confidence, or else you’ll lose again, and then losing becomes a habit.” – Joe Paterno | Proverbs 3:25-26 (KJV) ²⁵ Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh. ²⁶ For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken. |
| 42. | “Besides pride, loyalty, discipline, heart, and mind, confidence is the key to all the locks.” – Joe Paterno | Proverbs 3:25-26 (KJV) ²⁵ Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh. ²⁶ For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken. Hebrews 10:35-36 (KJV) ³⁵ Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. ³⁶ For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. |
| 43. | “It’s not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog.” – Bear Bryant | Philippians 4:13 (KJV) ¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. |
| 44. | “It’s not my job to motivate players. They bring extraordinary motivation to our program. It’s my job not to de-motivate them.” – Lou Holtz | Proverbs 13:24 (KJV) ²⁴ He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes. |
| 45. | “A school without football is in danger of deteriorating into a medieval study hall.” – Frank Leahy | 2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV) ¹⁷ Therefore if any man <i>be</i> in Christ, <i>he is</i> a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. |
| 46. | “Everybody said how stoic I was on the sidelines, that I didn’t show any emotion. You have to understand, I was never on the play the fans were seeing. I was on the next play, or two or three plays after that.” – Tom Landry | Proverbs 16:9 (KJV) ⁹ A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps. |

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| 47. | "Football incorporates the two worst elements of American society: violence punctuated by committee meetings." – George Will | <p>Psalm 11:5 (KJV) ⁵ The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.</p> <p>Proverbs 6:16-19 (KJV) ¹⁶ These six <i>things</i> doth the LORD hate: yea, seven <i>are</i> an abomination unto him: ¹⁷ A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, ¹⁹ A false witness <i>that</i> speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.</p> |
| 48. | "I want to be remembered as the guy who gave his all whenever he was on the field." – Walter "Sweetness" Payton | <p>Philippians 4:13 (KJV) ¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.</p> |
| 49. | "I found that prayers work best when you have big players." – Knute Rockne | <p>Philippians 4:6 (KJV) ⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.</p> |
| 50. | "If you aren't fired with enthusiasm, you will be fired with enthusiasm." – Vince Lombardi | <p>Colossians 3:23 (KJV) ²³ And whatsoever ye do, do <i>it</i> heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;</p> <p>2 Corinthians 9:7 (KJV) ⁷ Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, <i>so let him give</i>; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.</p> |

THE BOTTOM LINE: FOOTBALL QUOTES ARE BETTER THAN SCRIPTURE

– Hopefully, these quotes from America’s greatest football coaches mean a lot to you, and equally important, hopefully the corresponding scriptures capture your interest as well.



Although your chosen faith, or lack thereof, is not a game, nevertheless, it’s a common occurrence for people who play

the game of football to enthusiastically synergize their hope for a winning season with their belief in God. **Why isn’t there a similar commitment for people of God to growth the church with as much enthusiasm they have for football?**

CHAPTER NINE

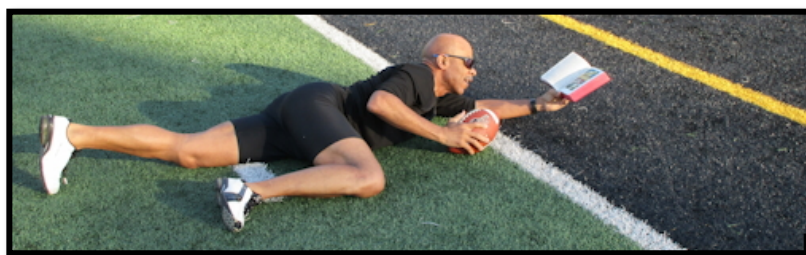
THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF RELIGIOUS PEOPLE DO NOT PRACTICE WHAT THEY PREACH

TELL THEM AGAIN - Again, with 31,102 scriptures, surely, there's an appropriate thought or two that's pertinent to your life-situation, and as you've read, there are thousands of scriptures that relate to the principles of football. So, what do we conclude from this synergy? Specifically, the objective of this book is to identify the successful strategies and tactics commonly used in football, and show how to apply them to overcome the constant decline in church membership and the corresponding closing of churches. Much like the ecclesiastical Ten Commandments, listed below are "key" guiding rules and principles, canons or tenets, that *should* establish the canon for all religious thinking. **Unfortunately, as validated by thousands of years of historical fact, the hypocrisy, flip-flops, blasphemous, and contemptuous acts of all religious faiths make any such commitment to religious tenets not only ridiculous, but a complete waste of time.**

| | RELIGIOUS CANON | KEYWORD | TENETS |
|----|-------------------------------|-----------|--|
| 1. | WE, BELIEVE. | BELIEVE | <p>We believe in scripture.</p> <p>John 3:16 (KJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.</p> |
| 2. | WE, PLAN. | PLAN | We plan before taking any action, because only through due diligence (looking before leaping) is the ultimate achievement of objectives possible. |
| 3. | WE, LEAD. | LEAD | We pastors must leader, with a thorough knowledge of the God's playbook, and provide leadership, guidance, direction, strength, peace, and solace. |
| 4. | WE, WIN. | WIN | We win with a Ziklag attitude. |
| 5. | WE, ARE A TEAM. | TEAM | We are not built and designed to be an island, an isolated entity living in a self-contained world not interacting with others. We identify with our team. |
| 6. | WE, FIGHT. | FIGHT | We fight with a Ziklag attitude to win our mental and physical battles. |
| 7. | WE, HAVE THE RIGHT ATTITUDE. | ATTITUDE | We know our attitude is the difference between winning and losing. |
| 8. | WE, HAVE A HEART. | HEART | We use our attitude for thinking, and we use our heart for feeling. |
| 9. | WE, STRIVE TO LIVE ERRORLESS. | ERRORLESS | We Live life with as few failures, penalties, and mistakes as possible. |

| | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|------------------|---|
| 10. | WE, TELL THE TRUTH. | TRUTH | We make no excuses for your failure or success; we know that no excuses are acceptable; and we tell the truth. |
| 11. | WE, LEARN. | LEARN | Simply put, we learn from our mistakes and successes. |
| 12. | WE, TEACH. | TEACH | We will teach. Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV) ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, <i>even</i> unto the end of the world. Amen. |
| 13. | WE, FACE OUR CHALLENGES. | FACE | We wear the passion of Christ on our face. We will display on our faces the welcoming and loving, face of God's disciples. |
| 14. | WE, PROTECT. | PROTECT | We always wear God's armor to protect God's word, to protect others, and to protect ourselves. |
| 15. | WE, PRACTICE. | PRACTICE | We know the only way to get good at anything, and to maintain standards of excellence is to practice; and we practice. |
| 16. | WE, FOCUS. | FOCUS. | We focus through discipline and commitment to achieve our objectives. |
| 17. | WE, ARE COMMITTED. | COMMITTED | We are committed to God. Romans 8:38-39 (KJV) ³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. |

THE BOTTOM LINE: THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF RELIGIOUS PEOPLE DO NOT PRACTICE WHAT THEY PREACH - When I was a child my father



was an exemplary and exceptionally fair disciplinarian. He would always tell my two older brothers and me that regardless of the circumstances, “no excuses are acceptable.”

We grew up with that philosophy from as early as I can remember. Back in the early





1950's my father was the first African American Parole Officer for the Nebraska State Penitentiary. My father got this philosophy from noted Nebraska penologist Warden Maurice Siegler, the prison's "head coach." Once everyone knows the rules and expectations there are no excuses for defiance or non-compliance. Waiving accidents, this was the law in our household. Likewise, given our commitment to the aforementioned principles, there's no excuse for violating the tenets for championship Christian living.

CHAPTER TEN

THE CONCLUSION

As represented by the graphic below, my family represents a robust legacy in pastoral coaching and ministry.

THE REVEREND REYNOLDS

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| b. 1955 Rev. Dr. Wayne M. Reynolds | 1928 – 2011 Rev. Dr. Everett S. Reynolds | 1903 – 1959 Rev. Clarence Crosby Reynolds | 1873 – 1965 Rev. Abraham Lincoln Reynolds, Sr. | 18?? To ???? Rev. John Reynolds Slave on the R.J. Reynolds tobacco plantation | 1700s "Slave" Reynolds on the R.J. Reynolds tobacco plantation |

Yes, my father, grandfather, great-grandfather, great-great grandfather, and great-great-great grandfather were all ministers; plus, my grand-uncle, Abraham Lincoln Reynolds, Jr., was also a minister, and four of my cousins are also ministers. This is important, because my observations and conclusions about the ministry have *considerable foundation*. Most importantly, I don't have tunnel vision, and I'm not biased.

My father was raised by his grandfather, Rev. Abraham Lincoln Reynolds, Sr., who said the following in his autobiography:

As I sit in my room this 14th day of July 1950, my mind goes racing back over 77 years of strange and varied experiences. My mother told me, when I was but a lad, that our family tree had its roots in the state of North Carolina. The Slave owners of my Mother and Father were John Reynolds, and William Fuell, respectively; their ancestors came over on the Mayflower. In 1620, John Reynolds, an ex-slave of John Reynolds, and Anne Mae Fuell, an ex-slave of William Fuell, were married. As a result of their marriage, there were two children, Harry Reynolds, my brother was born June 2, 1871 and I was born April 9, 1873.

My father, Rev. Dr. Everett S. Reynolds, lead the fight for equality throughout his lifetime, which included his ministry in Batesville and Little Rock, Arkansas; Lincoln, Nebraska; Jewell and Wichita, Kansas; Chicago, Illinois; Kansas City and St. Louis, Missouri; and Omaha, Nebraska. The overall "status" of "Being Black" did not significantly improve during my father's lifetime.

My father and mother always came to my track meets and to my football games, and throughout my father's lifetime, we also watched football as we also observed the decline of church membership and the closing of churches. We mutually observed the failure of religious leaders to actually practice what they preach. Most importantly, we learned that without regard to race or sex or any other consideration that the overwhelming majority of people are good and decent, fair and honest, have a

willingness to work hard and smart to achieve their goals, and they simply want the best for their families. **Life is just that simple.** As my father said throughout his ministry, **“Most people are just good folk.”** My father died in 2011.

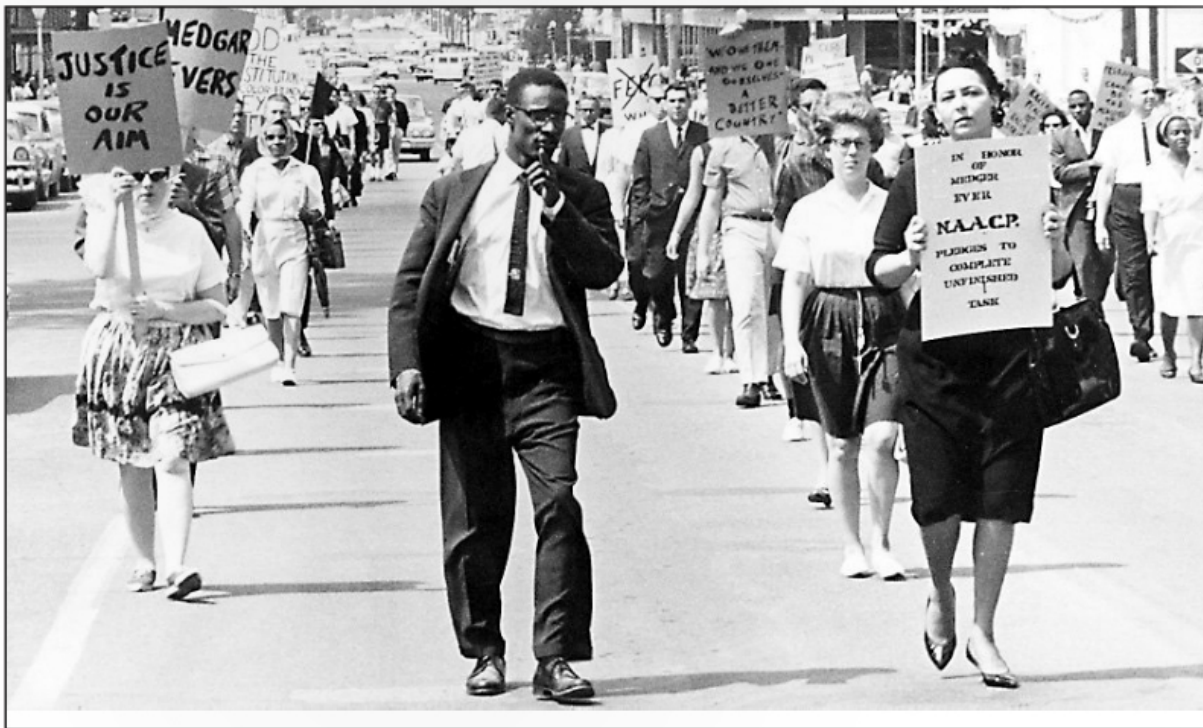


PHOTO FROM THE LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR ARCHIVES; REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION

The Rev. Everett S. Reynolds (center) and Leola Bullock (right) lead marchers during a 1963 civil rights march in Lincoln, Neb.

So, given the way I was raised by two loving parents, it’s always my practice to be objective, because I’ve seen a lot, and I’ve experience just as much. In addition to pastoring nearly two-(2) dozen churches with diverse multicultural demographics in the Midwest, South, and Northwest, my father also conducted religious ceremonies throughout the U.S., involving a wide variety of Christian denominations, and Jewish and Muslim faiths. I’m proud but humble about my family’s ministerial legacy.

Given the aforementioned, the church needs to pull up a chair, take some notes and listen carefully to what Tom Osborne, Lou Holtz, Bear Bryant, and many other legendary football coaches have said about football. Data validates the ongoing decline of church membership and the closing of churches throughout the United States. Conversely, football continues to grow as demonstrated with building a \$1.2 billion dollar stadium for the Dallas Cowboys, and other planned upgrades or new construction for high school, college, or professional football stadiums. Where’s construction of billion dollar stadiums that seat 90,000 Christians, Muslims, or Jews?

Are there any areas or ministries where church attendance is actually increasing or at least somewhat stable? Yes! Note the following exhibit:

| | Church | City | State | Pastor(s) | Average weekly attendance | Affiliation | Multi-site? (w/ number) | Church ^[4] |
|-----|--------------------------------------|------------------|-------|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Second Baptist Church Houston | Houston | TX | Dr. Ed Young (Sr.) | 64,000 (23,700 weekly) | SBC | Yes (6 campuses) | Second Baptist Church Houston |
| 2. | Life.Church | Edmond | OK | Craig Groeschel | 53,000 weekly (no members) | ECC | Yes (19+1 online) | Life.Church |
| 3. | Lakewood Church | Houston | TX | Joel Osteen | 43,500 weekly | ND | No | Lakewood Church |
| 4. | Church of the Highlands | Birmingham | AL | Chris Hodges | 39,500 | ND | Yes (12 including online) | Church of the Highlands |
| 5. | Saddleback Church | Lake Forest | CA | Rick Warren | 38,800 (22,100 weekly) | SBC | Yes (12+1 online) | Saddleback Church |
| 6. | Prestonwood Baptist Church | Plano | TX | Jack Graham | 38,000 (15,800 weekly) | SBC | Yes (3) | Prestonwood Baptist Church |
| 7. | Gateway Church | Southlake | TX | Robert Morris | 36,000 (27,000 weekly) | ND | Yes (5) | Gateway Church |
| 8. | Bellevue Baptist Church | Memphis | TN | Steve Gaines | 30,000 (6,800 weekly) | SBC | Yes (4) | Bellevue Baptist Church |
| 9. | Calvary Chapel Fort Lauderdale | Fort Lauderdale | FL | Doug Sauder | 30,000 (18,500 Weekly) | Calvary Chapel | Yes (9+1 online) | Calvary Chapel Fort Lauderdale |
| 10. | Christian Cultural Center | New York | NY | A. R. Bernard | 30,000 | ND | Yes (1 + 1 online) | Christian Cultural Center |
| 11. | NewSpring Church | Anderson | SC | Clayton King (interim) | 28,100 (31,800 weekly) | SBC | Yes (20 + 1 online) | NewSpring Church |
| 12. | First Baptist Church of Jacksonville | Jacksonville | FL | Mac Brunson | 28,000 | SBC | Yes (3) | First Baptist Church of Jacksonville |
| 13. | Christ's Church of the Valley | Peoria | AZ | Donald J. Wilson | 27,000 | ND | Yes (6) | Christ's Church of the Valley |
| 14. | North Point Community Church | Alpharetta | GA | Andy Stanley | 27,000 | ND | Yes (6 Atlanta-area locations) | North Point Community Church |
| 15. | Willow Creek Community Church | South Barrington | IL | Bill Hybels | 25,800 | ND | Yes (7) | Willow Creek Community Church |
| 16. | Faith Church | St. Louis | MO | David Crank | 25,000 | | | Faith Church |
| 17. | Crossroads Church — Cincinnati | Cincinnati | OH | Brian Tome | 22,700 | ID | Yes (5) | Crossroads Church — Cincinnati |
| 18. | Northland, A Church Distributed | Longwood | FL | Joel Hunter | 22,000 | ND | Yes (3+1 online) | Northland, A Church Distributed |
| 19. | Southeast Christian | Middletown | KY | Dave Stone | 21,800 | Christian Churches | Yes (4 + 2 planned) | Southeast Christian |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|-----------|----|-------------|--------|---|------------------|--------------------------|
| | Church | | | | | and Churches of Christ | | Church |
| 20. | Central Christian Church | Henderson | NV | Jud Wilhite | 21,100 | Christian churches and churches of Christ | Yes (9+1 online) | Central Christian Church |

Legend

ND – Non-Denominational Christian
SBC – Southern Baptist Convention
ECC - Evangelical Covenant Church
ID – Interdenominational Church

Source: Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_the_largest_Protestant_churches_in_the_United_States

Although attendance for the churches listed above is actually increasing or at least somewhat stable, unfortunately as detailed previously in Chapter Three, “Religious Recruitment versus the Collapse of the Church,” in record numbers churches continue to close, while a few non-denomination mega-churches have spurts in membership. Throughout this book no punches were pulled, nor was the truth watered down. In keeping with this veracity, it’s about time:

1. **Football coaches, owners and players to take responsibility for killing the church.** Instead of attending worship services on Sundays, which was the practice throughout the U.S. for decades, leaders of amateur and professional football intentionally targeted and manipulated the general public to watch televised college and professional football, or to physically attend college and professional football. Instead of attending religious services, strategically designed multimedia marketing campaigns typically provided perks, incentives, and commercial sponsorships to prompt people to watch and attend football games. **Don’t “we” remember what God said??**

Exodus 20:8-11 (KJV)

⁸ Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

⁹ Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

¹⁰ But the seventh day *is* the sabbath of the LORD thy God: *in it* thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that *is* within thy gates:

¹¹ For *in* six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them *is*, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

2. **Religious leaders of all faiths must take responsibility for the constant decline in church membership and closing of churches, synagogues, temples, and other places of worship.** Instead of mounting, executing and maintaining progressive multimedia campaigns to aggressively and continually fight the moral decay of society, religious leaders allowed the

“separation between church and state” to minimize the importance of scripture (Bible, Quran, Tanakh/Torah, and other religious documents); to spearhead a demand to feminize clergy; to empower the hypocrisy of “In God We Trust” to dilute the importance of moral standards (i.e., LGBTQIBPP); and to allow socio-political-religious wars to continuously impede world peace.

Of course, it’s not enough to just point fingers at football leaders for taking advantage of religion, or to point fingers at religious leaders for allowing their hypocrisy and incompetence to foster their own downfall. Instead, it’s about time . . .

- It’s time for football players and coaches to do more than “Thank God” in a post game interview.
- It’s time for football players and coaches to support and develop religious organizations through actual, hands-on, in-person giving of their time, talent, intellectual acuity, networking relationships, and yes, financial resources.

Likewise . . .

- It’s time for religious leaders to listen, study, and learn how football coaches use offensive and defensive strategies, and use highly inspirational football halftime speeches; and then with enlightenment, propel their churches to initiate those amazing comebacks, typically found in sports, to save and grow their ministries.
- It’s time for religious leaders to draw a line in the sand and state with absolute clarity: everyone is welcome to participate in and join any religious faith, but in doing so you subscribe to the religious canons that define each faith (Bible, Quran, Tanakh/Torah, and other religious documents), which does NOT permit individuals to unilaterally pick-and-choose the specific tenets they will accept or discard. **Put simply, the tail (racism, sexism, LGBTQIBPP, Title VII, etc.) does not wag the dog (Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Mormonism, etc.).** Most importantly, this is not a position of exclusion, but a position of *sovereignty*. Denmark, a sovereign nation state, is not the United States and vice versa. Russia, a sovereign nation state, is not the United States and vice versa. Judaism is not Christianity and vice versa. **All beliefs and principles, including religious, forfeit their integrity, when polluted by contradiction and hypocrisy.**

Freedom of Religion is a First Amendment right of the U.S. Constitution for a reason; so if certain people refuse to accept the inspired word of God as defined in the Bible, Quran, Tanakh/Torah, and other religious documents – create your own religion; you won’t be the first or last to do so. We’ll pray for you, as God’s surely commands us to do so.

TALK IS CHEAP. PUT UP OR SHUT UP.

Again, it's not enough to finger-point, or to whine and complain about the fall of religion in American society. Instead, every NFL head coach and every NCAA Division I head coach and athletic director will receive an electronic copy (ebook) of this book, because I want to challenge the great minds of football to give lectures, seminars and workshops to educate religious leaders on how to take our churches from failing memberships to thriving congregations. Yes, of course, football coaches are busy, but many say they believe in God. So, again, it's put up or shut up time.

DO FOOTBALL COACHES AND PLAYERS ATTEND CHURCH?

IF SO, WHEN?

IF SO, WHERE?

It's . . . interesting that "public figures" such as actors, politicians, musicians, and especially college and professional athletes, who profess to be religious are seldom seen actually practicing their so-called religious beliefs. This is not a privacy issue, because these are "public figures" whom often talk publically about all kinds of socio-cultural-political events, including LGBTQIBPP, global warming, political elections, and more. Attention football coaches and player, don't just sit on it (your faith!), give it back, by being as equally "public" about your professed commitment to your faith.

So, when you see a football coach or football player at a microphone giving "Thanks to God" for giving them strength and confidence with their athletic challenges, "we" need to challenge these individual to validate their commitment in actual deeds of faith. Every football coach and player has friends and relatives who are members of one faith or another, and collectively, we need to challenge each other and we need to be challenged by others to affirm our faith.

Attention football coaches and player, please share this book with your peers, friends and neighbors, because it's not enough to speak of God during a motivational halftime speech, or after scoring a touchdown to then thank God in a perfunctory 30-second post-game interview. Likewise, it's hypocrisy to have on-site chaplains at college and professional games, but to be ambiguous or to discourage church affiliation during the season. Even worse, some of the head coaches don't have any kind of relationship with a church – yet they are "preaching" to their players to be spiritually grounded as well as thanking God for strength to overcome their individual challenges, and to be successful.

God has made champions of many football coaches and players, and it's time to make churches champions as well. There should be, there must be a better synergy between football and religion, and not just all day on Sundays, and "prime time" on Monday and Thursday nights. As established in Chapter Nine, "The Tenets for Championship Live" define **how we should think and live, and like football, grow the church!** All people can benefit from the principles of both football and religion. In this regard, it's appropriate to think of this book as a sports epiphany, as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles:

Matthew 2:1-12 (KJV)

¹ Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

² Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

³ When Herod the king had heard *these things*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

⁵ And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

⁶ And thou Bethlehem, *in* the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

⁷ Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found *him*, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

⁹ When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

¹¹ And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

¹² And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

THE BOTTOM LINE: THE CONCLUSION

OPTION A:

May you and all the persons in your life have tons of fun with weekends filled with fantastic touchdowns and without the contradiction, hypocrisy, and contemptuous conduct of so-called religious do-gooders, religious fanatics, and religious zealots.

Or



OPTION B:

May you and all the persons in your life have tons of fun with weekends filled with the epiphany of a fantastic touchdowns coupled with championship living through your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, or the prophet Muhammad, or in compliance with Catholicism and your designated saint, or whatever floats your boat.

By the way, as researched, validated and reported by Ronnie Grenier-Hemphill in this thesis, "Declining Attendance Trends In Collegiate and Professional Sports," declines in attendance exist across many sports, and specifically with collegiate and professional football. Data in areas including, but not limited to, attendance, consumer spending, sports wagering, student behavior, and HDTV adoption, was gathered and analyzed to find patterns and trends. Results of the data suggest the economy, ticket prices, HDTV adoption, and fan behavioral changes as being the primary culprits of declining attendance in football. So, with the decline in attendance for collegiate and professional football will people come back to the church?

Nope.