



Bible and Sport

Biblical Foundations of Sport Ministry



Questions?

- Is the Bible against Sport?
- Is Sport sinful?

OR

- Is God for Sport?
- Did God create Sport?

OR

- Is God absent in Sport?



Questions?

- Who designed Sport?
- If someone said, “Sport is evil!” How would you respond?
- Could it be that certain Sports are evil in its structural design?
- Could it be that we play in an evil way, although Sport itself may be generally good in its design?
- Name a few evil things in sport that you have observed.
- If we say, “Sport must be redeemed.” What do we include?



Questions?

- How can we worship God in Sport?
- What do you think are the things to consider when we design a sport or a game plan for a sport?
- When your team plays well, but you play terrible, how should you feel?
- When the team plays terrible, but you are the star, how should you feel?
- When the opponent plays way below his/her standard. How should you feel?



4 Biblical Principles

1. Worship God and find Identity in Him (Image)

- Genesis 1:1-2: God is the Beginning and Origin!
- He alone deserves the Glory! (Col. 1:15-17)
- We should find Our identity in Him, not performance?
- He is concerned and active in creation (moving and transcendent)
- Gen. 1:3-5: God is personally involved (“He speaks”)



4 Biblical Principles

- We can be in relation with Him.
- Gen 1:3-5: God creates order (separated).
- We should live with order/structure, development and purpose.
- Gen 1:10,12,18,21,25, 31: God saw that it was good.
- Creation is originally inherently good!
- Gen 1:26-27: God created us in His image! Our identity is found in Him.



4 Biblical Principles

2. Represent God in Creativity

- We are to be like him in ruling this world.
- We have His unique spiritual capacity.
- We have to express god-likeness (Col. 1:15).
- We should represent God in every aspect of our created lives ... in all things at all times.
- We were made to image Him by using our creative gifts as an act of worship.



4 Biblical Principles

- Since sport (for the Christian) is an act of worship, we should always do our best!
- We should use our abilities to make a culture (cultivate and keep it) for Him in the world.
- There is no split between secular and sacred in the mind of God (1 Tim 4:4).



4 Biblical Principles

3. Represent God in Relationships

- Gen. 1:26-27: Man and wife were to be the image of God.
- God is a team, therefore we should never go solo!
- We image God by loving our neighbor.
- Gen. 2:18 : Man was created to be a relational being.
- Mutual relationships defined by diversity is God's idea.
- Gen. 3:16: Sin is always anti-social and anti-relational.



4 Biblical Principles

- Our relationship with our teammate and our opponent should reflect this inherent design.



4 Biblical Principles

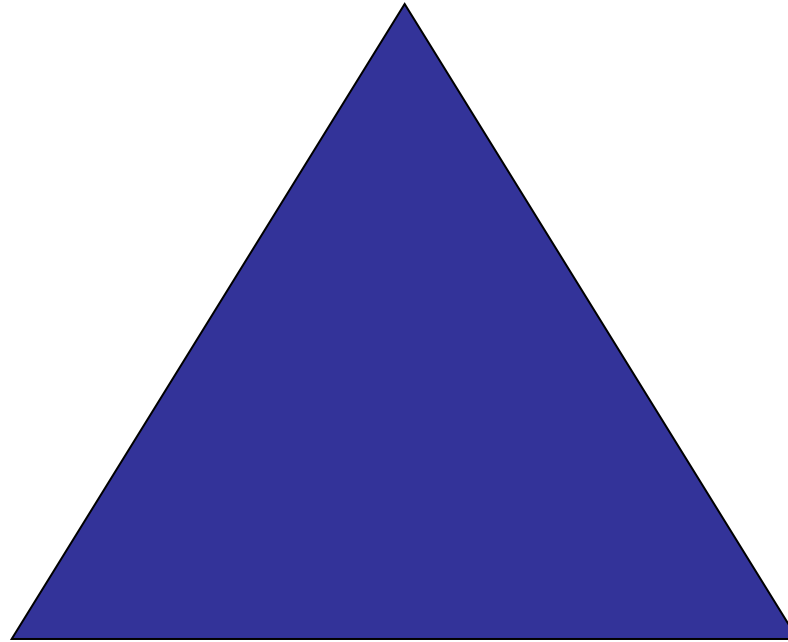
4. Be transformed by the renewing of the mind! (Romans 12:2)

- Image: True Identity is found in God's grace. Our bodies are a total package; therefore, our inward thoughts, feeling and aspirations, and also our words and deeds should be offered as a living sacrifice (vs.1).
- Talents: The understanding of our gifting/talents should be restored (v.3-8).
- Relationships: Our relationships should be restored (v.9-21).



Good (Godly) Triangle in Sport

IMAGE

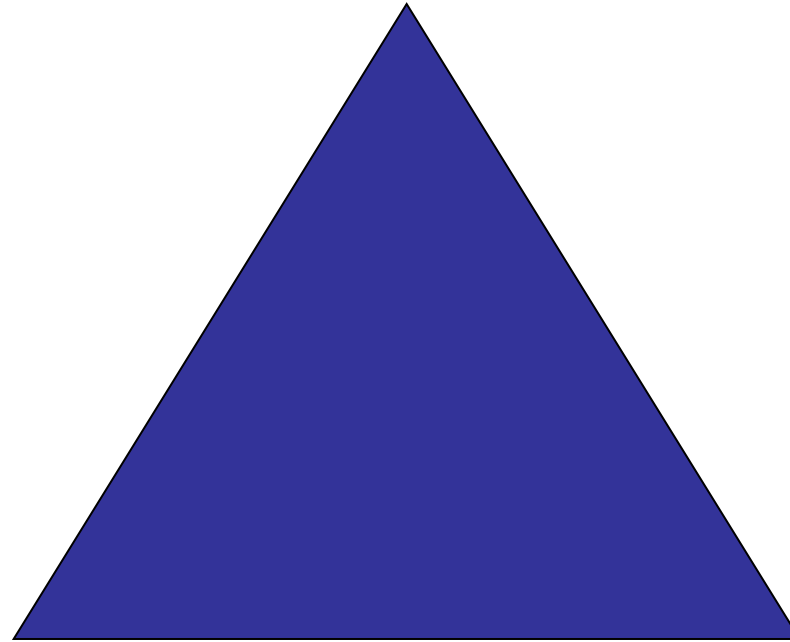


TALENTS

RELATIONSHIPS

Bad (Evil) Triangle in Sport

PERFORMANCE



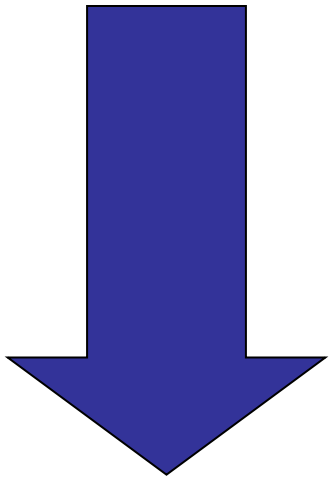
**BREAKING
THE RULES**

**OPPONENT THE
ENEMY**

Genesis 1 & 2: Creation 'Born to Play'

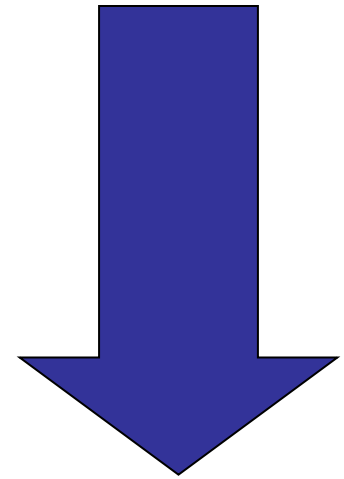
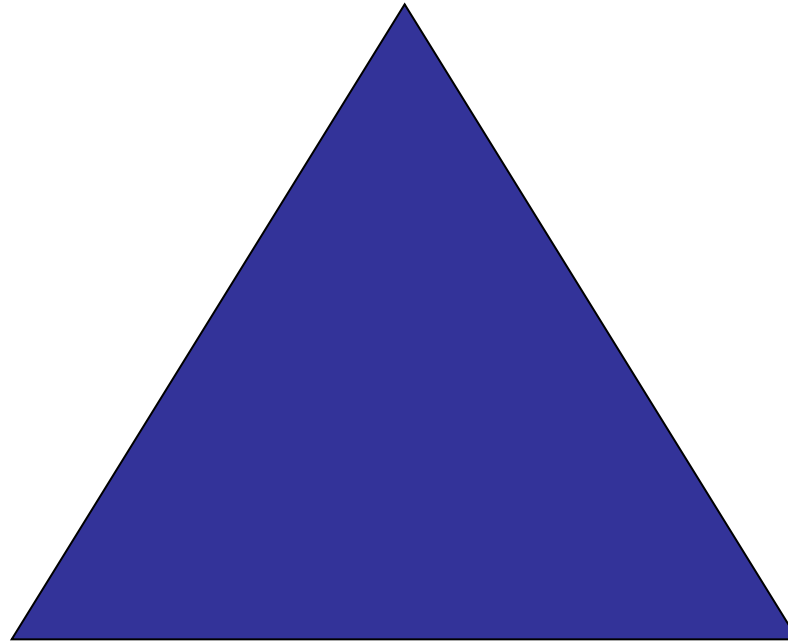
IMAGE

GENESIS 1:26-28



TALENTS

GENESIS 2:15



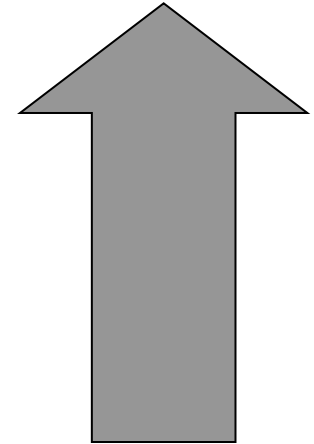
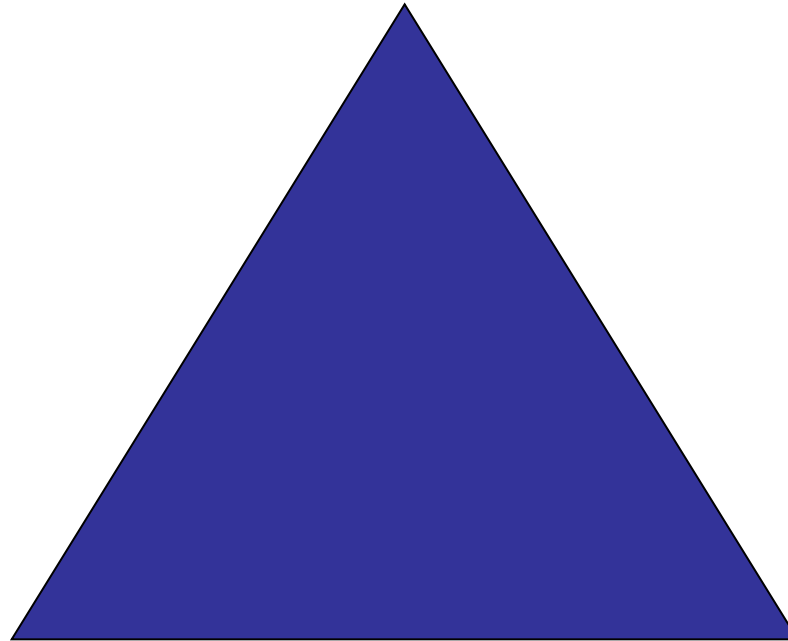
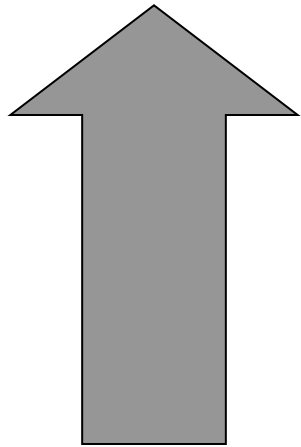
RELATIONSHIPS

GENESIS 2:18

Genesis 3: The Fall 'The Professional Foul'

IMAGE

GENESIS 3:8-10



TALENTS

GENESIS 3:17-19

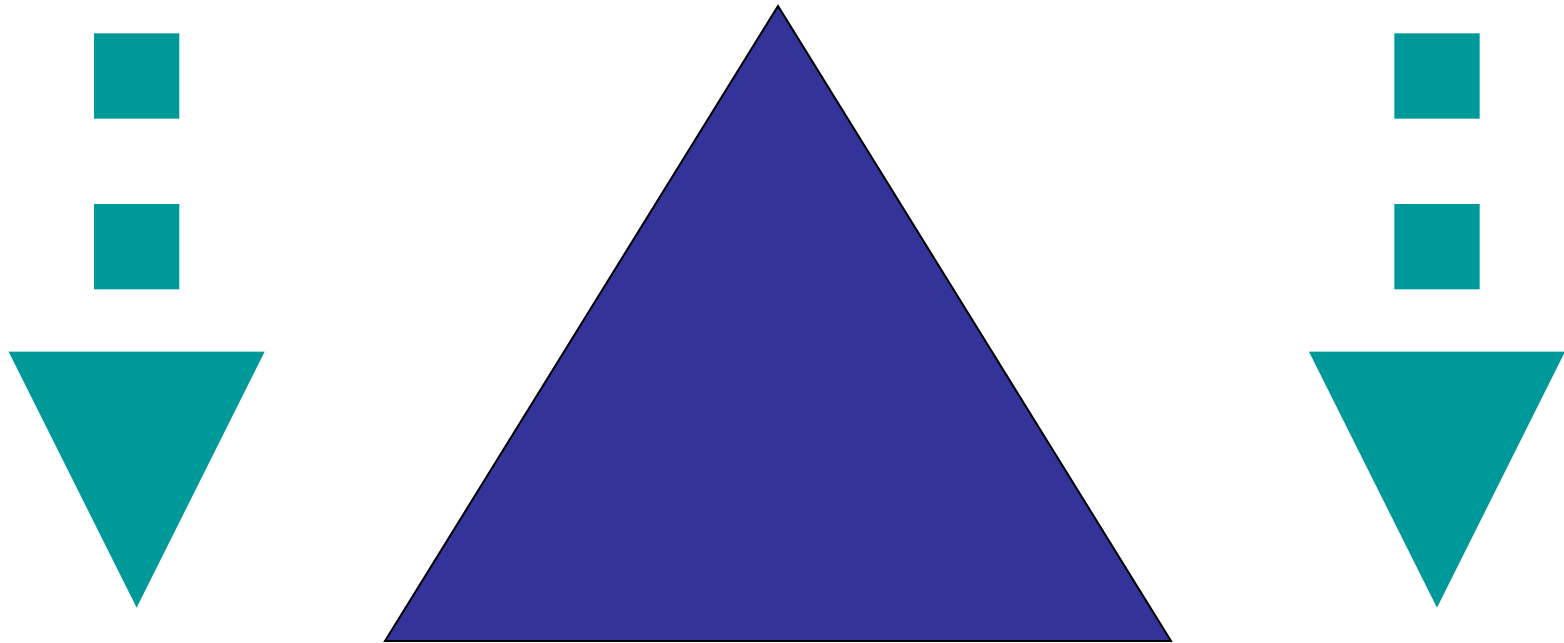
RELATIONSHIPS

GENESIS 3:16

Romans 12: Restoration 'Back in the Race'

IMAGE

ROMANS 12:1-2



TALENTS

ROMANS 12:3-8

RELATIONSHIPS

ROMANS 12:9-21



The Definition of Competition:

Two Possibilities:

1. To defeat an opponent in score, skill or combat.
2. To walk alongside of ... for two or more to work together to bring another along ... to partner.

The Christian Understanding of Competition:

To elevate each others involvement to higher levels of participation, skill development and effectiveness through a particular activity ... for the glory of God.

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