

by David Nelson  
Pastor of Discipleship

### Why Do We Enjoy Sports So Much?

We Americans enjoy our sports... almost as much as the Aussies! Whether playing, watching, reading about, collecting & trading cards, memorizing player stats, or simulating play on X-box, PS2, computer or some other electronic device - you name it; we put a lot of "sports" mileage on our discretionary time and spending.

Have you ever taken time to step back and ask, *'Why do I enjoy sports OR \_\_\_\_\_ (my favorite sport/ team/ sport related activity) so much?'* The Bible, God's Word, provides some answers; namely, by describing how we are designed and why we exist.

Off the top of our heads, we might answer:

*"Playing \_\_\_\_\_ (my sport OR sport related entertainment) is exhilarating!"*

*"I feel like I'm more alive when I'm playing \_\_\_\_\_ (my sport!)"*

*"I feel powerful when my \_\_\_\_\_ (favorite team) makes an exciting play, scores, or wins an important game (or any game for that matter.)"*

*"\_\_\_\_\_ (name of great player) is the most awesome \_\_\_\_\_ (his or her sport) player in the world and I love to watch him/her play!"*

But, why do sports and things surrounding them make us feel this way? Here are some answers from God's Word (all of these relate to the fact that *we are created in God's image* - Genesis 1:26-27) :

1. Because we're created in His image, like Him, we have great capacity for joy & happiness. God is joyful and completely satisfied all the time! Contrary to popular belief - God is not a kill-joy; rather He is the source of man's greatest possible joy! (Psalm 4:6-8; Luke 2:10; Acts 16:34; 1 Thessalonians 3:7-9; 1 Peter 1:8-9; Jude 1:24-25; etc.)

We enjoy sports so much because they often bring us joy. We're designed for joy.

2. Because we're created in His image, we are designed to appreciate greatness & beauty. This might sound weird, but God is completely satisfied with His own greatness and beauty - also known as His glory or weightiness. When we think of such things in man, it's called pride or ego, and it turns us off... but, in God - who is all powerful and perfect in every way - such feelings are good and justified - or glorious. (Job 36:26; Psalm 48:1; 50:2; 95:3; 111:3; Titus 2:13; etc.)

God is the greatest and most beautiful thing we could ever imagine and, like we naturally praise or cheer for great athletes and their feats (or beautiful art or music); when we see God in His greatness - we must cheer as well. God didn't create us because He needed us, but because He wanted to share and increase the knowledge of His greatness & beauty throughout the universe.

We enjoy sports so much because the great feats of the greats (or even our own kids) reflect the great feats and greatness of God and we love and are designed to cheer for His greatness and beauty.

3. Because we are created in His image, we are hard-wired to look for heros so we can give them our allegiance, praise & honor. God is the ultimate hero - that's what all the 'salvation' talk in the Bible is all about. God is better than the Marines - He can rescue people anytime, anywhere, from any circumstance; and, His rescue doesn't just save your life now from your present danger to face death again some time in the future. God's rescue saves your life from the ultimate danger of eternal death forever and ever more. (Psalm 80:3; John 3:16-17; Acts 16:30-31; Romans 10:13; Titus 3:4-5a; etc.)

We enjoy sports so much because in sports we find 'heros' who reflect our ultimate hero, Jesus Christ!

What about you? Do you enjoy sports? That's great!! But there's a greater joy, a more beautiful thing, and a better hero than you'll ever find out there in our *wide world of sports...* and that hero is Jesus Christ! Have you found Him yet? Has He rescued you from your future certain destruction? If not, He's only waiting for your call.



Meet the Nelsons  
L-R: Gideon, Dave, Isaiah,  
Laureen, Lydia & Micah

*Seek the LORD while He may be found; call on Him while He is near. Isaiah 55:6*

## Upcoming Youth Events

### Youth Group

Middle & High School

#### Sunday Night

Bible Study  
6:00 - 7:30pm

#### Wednesday Night

Open Gym, Dining Out, etc.  
6:30 - 8:00pm

#### Ski Retreat

Winterplace  
February 8 - 9

#### Charlotte Bobcats

Bobcats Arena  
February 22

#### Sr. High Beach Retreat

Panama City Beach, Fl.  
July 7 - 12

### Children's Ministry

#### Imagebearers

1st - 5th grade  
Sundays 6:00 - 7:30pm

#### Kids Night Out (Pajama Party)

Infant to 5th grade  
February 22  
6:30 - 9:30pm

## This Little Light of Mine

Kenneth Erickson, 1994, Augsburg Fortress  
Helping Your Children Feel Good About Themselves

A neighbor's favorite childhood memory is his mother's often-repeated remark, "Andy, you are very special to me!"

"As a child," Andy recalls, "I needed more than merely the knowledge that I belonged to a household. I needed the assurance that I was treasured by my parents, and thank God I got it."

Other friends who "got it" from affirming parents enjoyed good self-esteem that kept them from unsavory associations and caused them to make the right choices at critical turns.

"We both love you just the way you are" is an affirmation that one man remembers from his parents.

"You always have my love – no strings attached," said another mother.

Other parental remarks that boost a child's self-esteem include these:

"I'd like to know what *you* think about this idea."

"I really appreciated your help."

"What you think is important

to me/us."

All children make mistakes, but if they sense an undergirding of genuine parental love and patience, they will be convinced that their parents truly care for them. If a child is clumsy or awkward, it is shattering when a parent snatches away the responsibility with a comment like, "No, no! You're doing it all wrong. Here, let me do it!" Impatience and mistrust cripple, rather than boost, a child's self-esteem.



Proverbs 22:6  
The Message

Point your kids  
in the right  
direction—when  
they are old  
they won't be  
lost.

## Volleyball News

### Division I

- Court Boundaries are the blue side lines and back black line. Players must serve behind the black line.
- If a server has 5 consecutive serves, the team rotates and the next player rotating to the left-back position will serve.

### Division II & III

- Court Boundaries are the blue side lines and back blue line. Players must serve behind the red line.

### All Divisions

- The Height of the net is 7'4 1/8".
- A served ball can not be blocked or attacked.
- For your safety & for the safety of the players, crossing the gym during game time is not permitted. To access the far end of the gym (Court 2), please follow the sidewalk to the rear entrance.

## Important Dates

### Team Pictures

Tues, 2/12

Teams 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 - 12

Fri, 2/15

Teams 3, 6, 9, 13

Note:  
Change to  
Team #13

### Ice Cream Social

Save room for a banana split on  
*Friday, February 15th!*

Division I (after 6:30 game)  
Division II (after 7:30 game)  
Division III (after 8:30 game)

**Focus on Your Child** ministry helps parents raise healthy, confident, and well-adjusted children. You can find out about topics such as parenting teenagers, being a single parent, and helping your child develop a relationship with God.

For more info, log on  
[www.focusonyourchild.com](http://www.focusonyourchild.com)



## Friday Night Games

This Friday night, we'll have 2 events going on at our church - volleyball games in the gym & a special dinner in the church.

First Baptist Church (just across the street) has graciously offered their parking lot for any overflow.

As always, please plan to arrive 15 minutes prior to your game.

**Thank You!**

  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
Stanley, North Carolina  
*Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ*

### Sunday Morning

8:30 Worship Service

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship Service

### Sunday Evening

6:00 Care Groups

Image Bearers

Youth Group

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at

[www.fpcstanley.org](http://www.fpcstanley.org)

Team Rosters

Game Schedule