

by David Nelson
Pastor of Discipleship

Designed for Fellowship

Have you ever wondered why you like team sports? Whether you are a player or a spectator, there is something special about team sports for most people. Whether you gather to play on a softball team; come to watch your son or daughter play soccer or basketball; or even watch a football game at a stadium or on TV - team sports are an occasion to get together.

Some say, "I don't mind watching a game on TV when I'm all alone." True. But, imagination can put you in the crowd and most people watching alone still cheer or sigh out loud when their team does something good or bad. In addition, it gives you something to talk about with your friends, family and fellow workers so it ends up being a shared experience in that way too.

So, why do people like team sports? It all goes back to how and why you were created.

In Genesis 1:26-27 we read, God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, in Our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.



This is strange. All the other acts of creation to this point begin with the impersonal singular, 'God said, "Let there be..." OR "Let the..."' but, this begins with the personal plural, 'God said, "Let Us make..."' Why does God - the one God - refer to Himself as 'Us'? It's because God, though one God, exists in the Trinitarian "Godality" of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And, He's been in perfect, perfectly satisfying fellowship from all eternity. In other words, God is into being on and for a team as well!! He's the perfect teammate!

Also, we see that, 'God created man in His own image.' Part of that is that He created us male and female. In Genesis 2:18 God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." To do this, God put Adam in a deep sleep, took one of his ribs and fashioned a woman from it. When Adam saw her he exclaimed, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh!...", affirming that Eve completed Him. Notice it takes a man and a woman together to represent the complete image of God.

All this to say - part of our image bearing: as God has been and is in perfect fellowship with Himself, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; so we were designed to be in fellowship. We were designed to be in relationship; in fact, we need to be in relationship - it's part of the blue print of our design!

That's why we like teams... why we like to be on them, why we like to watch them, talk about them, cheer for them, follow them... why we like to be at or 'in' the game - in so doing, we fulfill - at least in part - our need for fellowship.

Over the years, I've met many people who say they believe in Christ but don't go to church. Some say they don't need the church while others say, "the church is full of hypocrites." Whatever the case, such people are missing some key points. First, the church IS full of hypocrites - 'for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23) - that's why we need a savior!! And secondly, people aren't merely saved so they can go to heaven; they're saved to be in relationship with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit as well as relationship with God's people - the church.

God saves people to bring them into fellowship with Himself and His people - though it's not perfect in this fallen world, fellowship in the church can be the best fellowship this side of heaven.

Upcoming Youth Events

Youth Group

Middle & High School

Sunday Night

Bible Study

6:00 - 7:30pm

Wednesday Night

Open Gym, Eat Out, etc.

6:30 - 8:00pm

Children's Ministry

Infant - 5th grade

Sunday Nights

Nursery

Infant - 2 yrs.

6:00 - 7:30pm

Preschool Age

3 yrs. - Kindergarten

6:00 - 7:30pm

Imagebearers

1st - 5th grade

6:00 - 7:30pm

Summer Happenings

Youth Baseball / Softball

June 13 - August 16, 2009

Summer Sports Camp

June 22 - June 26, 2009

Ages 6 - 12

9:00am - 12:15pm

Soccer, Basketball & Cheer

Vacation Bible School

July 26 - July 30, 2009

Ages 3 - 5th grade

Mark your calendars!

Kids ask tough questions...

At a recent sports clinic, players were given an "Open Mike" opportunity to ask our pastors a question. Here's one answered by Pastor Dave.



Q. How much power does God have?

God has all the power that ever was, ever is, and ever will be. It's hard to understand, but **ALL** power has its source and ongoing influence by, in and through God. He used His power to create everything, and He uses His power to keep everything going and control it.

An ancient song writer told God, "*How awesome are Your deeds! So great is Your power that Your enemies cringe before You. All the earth bows down to You!*" **Psalm 66:3-4**

And apostle Paul wrote, "*...this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.*" **2 Corinthians 4:7**

Soccer News

It's getting hot outside. To prevent dehydration, make sure your child has a drink (sports drink or water) for each practice and game.

Would you like to have your child's name on the back of their jersey? If so, just go see our friends at Essic Sporting Goods in Gastonia. They'll iron the name on for \$0.30 / letter.

Essic Sporting Goods Inc 704.867.4491
1320 E Franklin Blvd, Gastonia



The Throw In

A throw-in is a method of restarting play. A goal can not be directly scored from a throw-in.

A throw-in is awarded:

- When the ball passes over the touch line (side line)
- From the point where it crossed the touch line
- To the opponents of the player who last touched the ball.



The Thrower:

- Faces the field of play
 - Has part of both feet touching the ground
 - Uses both hands
 - Delivers the ball from behind and over his head
- The thrower may not touch the ball again until it is touched by another player.

The ball is in play immediately as it enters the field of play.

Adapted from The Official Soccer Site

Deuteronomy

The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.



- Fire zone in front of the gym
- Stanley Total Living Center parking spaces

Thank You!



Help us keep our fields in great shape - put trash where it goes!

First Presbyterian Church
Stanley, North Carolina

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

Morning Service

8:30 Worship Service

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship Service

Evening Service

6:00 Care Groups

Image Bearers

6:00 Youth Group

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at

www.fpcstanley.org

Team Rosters

Game Schedule