

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

I am originally from California, born and raised there for over 55 years. But a few years ago I moved to Texas, because my son and grandkids live here. But one thing I notice that's different about Texas then California, is that Texans are big on sports... No, they are HUGE on sports. They treat sports as important as Californians treat water and avocados, because they are always mindful of how much water they have, or don't have, and they (we) love avocados.

Therefore, men in Texas treat and train their boys, and even girls the gospel of sports. It is driven into them because that's how they were raised here in Texas. But some dads take sports and training or raising their children on sports as they are being a good "godly" dad because they do so. And I will admit, they are being a "good" dad, because they are spending time with their sons and daughters. But it does not make you a "godly" dad. In fact, if you are training your child that sports are more important than God, then you are not being a godly dad at all, you are being a sports dad, a dad just like any other dad in the world. Because like I said, most dads in Texas spend time with their kids in some type of sports activity, which means, that it's both the Christian dads as well as the non Christian dads. So spending time with your child in sports does not make you a godly dad.

If you are spending hours and hours teaching them their sport, but little or no time teaching them of God and His word, how do you expect them to grow up to be men and women of God? Sure, we see these athletes that are Christians and they give all glory to God, and some are the extreme Christian in their sport. But the more extreme Christian they are, the more they were raised to put God first, even before their sport.

We sing the song that says, "*You're a good, good Father, It's Who You are.*" And as a good Father, yes He has gifted those with the ability to play sports, just like He has gifted those to play music. But unless the musicians put God first, they will not be a worshipper of God, just a musician, and just because they play sports really well, does not make them a man or woman of God, just a great athlete.

Once again, sports are not bad at all, just like music is not bad. Paul; even addresses sports in his teaching, but like we are talking about here today, Paul also reminds us that working hard to be good at your sport is ok, but work harder to raise or even be a child of God yourself, not a child of sports.

† **1 Corinthians 9:24-27** *Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

† **Psalm 16:5 (MSG)** *My choice is you, GOD, first and only. And now I find I'm your choice!*