A Good Clean Sport

Micah 6:8, Genesis 1:27, 18:19



James Naismith wanted basketball to be a "good clean sport". He didn't want a player using rough tactics to get an advantage over the other. When a player breaks this rule it can lead to a personal foul. **What are some ways a player commits a personal foul?** (blocking, holding, pushing, elbowing, charging, tripping, grabbing, etc). **How can playing too rough be unfair?**

> ***Do what is right to other people. Love being kind to others. And live humbly, trusting your God.***
>
> Micah 6:8



God made us to be like him. *Genesis 1:27* He wants us to treat each other rightly and fairly. But people don't always do this. Sometimes they use rough tactics to help themselves in ways that are unfair to others. **How is this like a personal foul?** A long time ago, God chose a man named Abraham to teach his family *"to live the way the Lord wants them to…so they would live right and be fair." Genesis 18:19* Over time, Abraham's family, the Israelites, grew to be very large in number. They were treated unfairly and forced to become slaves in Egypt. The Egyptians used rough tactics to get an advantage over the Israelites. So God rescued the Israelites and gave them a new homeland. God reminded them how he wanted them to live. But it wasn't long before they began to ignore what God wanted. They used rough tactics to get take advantage of others. They forgot that God told them to live right and be fair. **How are personal foul rules in basketball like God's command to live right and be fair?**



When we treat people unfairly, it's like committing a personal foul. When we see others treating people unfairly and do nothing, this is also like committing a personal foul. We all commit personal fouls against God. We call it sin. Thankfully, God loves being kind. He sent Jesus, who is fully right with God, to take away all our sin. Jesus gave his life for ours so that we could be forgiven. When we believe, trust, and follow him, he says we are right with God. **Since Jesus did this for us, how can we love being kind to others?**

PRAY

Lord, in response to everything you have done for us, help us go out and look for people who are being taken advantage of and do what we can to help them. Show us how to love our neighbors as ourselves in this way. Amen.

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