Sportsmanship

1 Peter 2:12, Romans 12:21



What is an example of sportsmanship (being a good sport)? James Naismith said sportsmanship is playing your best, always playing by the rules, not behaving badly when you lose, and being kind to your opponent when you win. He felt basketball especially helps players learn sportsmanship because the court is smaller than others games played in a large area. That means everyone is close enough to notice when you are a good sport and when you are not. **Why does it matter if you show good sportsmanship?**

> ***People who do not believe are living all around you. They might say that you are doing wrong. So live good lives. Then they will see the good things you do, and they will give glory to God on the day when Christ comes again.***
>
> 1 Peter 2:12



When is it hard to show good sportsmanship? In Bible times, some people who didn't believe in Jesus treated his followers unfairly and accused them of doing wrong. **How do you think that made them feel?** Peter gave them encouragement. He told them to keep doing good anyway. Then the people will see how followers of Jesus show their love for God by doing good for others. The people who don't believe in Jesus may change their minds and decide to be *with* God instead of *against* God. **If someone treated you unfairly, how could you keep doing good anyway? How could it change their mind about you and about God?**



In the Bible, Paul wrote, *"Do not let evil defeat you. Defeat evil by doing good." Romans 12:21* **If the other team doesn't show good sportsmanship, what should your team do? Why?**

PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank you for your goodness. Your goodness is powerful enough to soften hearts and change minds. Help us share it with people all around us so that we can all be on your side together. Amen.

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