“Kick-Off With God’s Team!”
1 Corinthians 13:12-27
Are You Ready For Some Football?

1. People known for their allegiances
   Todd T, Sid K, Eddie S, Benjamin M, Bobby D
2. Teams are carefully drafted and crafted – recruiting by position – Anthony Lotti
   Wisconsin punter
3. Enthusiasm over team’s potential – “this is our year!”

Parallels with the Christian life...
1. Join God’s Team/Family

By His Invitation

Nothing happens without God’s grace first
1 Cor. 15:10 – “by the grace of God I am what I am”

John 6:44 – “No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him...” John 12:32

John 1:12 – “as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God...”

“Heaven’s phone call” = your salvation from sin! ... when you are bone-weary of justifying it!
Becoming a Member of God’s Team

Ignore other offers, **answer the 1 call!**
(John 14:6, Acts 4:12)

* By new birth! (1 Corinthians 12:13)
* **God** composes His body
  (1 Corinthians 12:18, 24)

Baptism = “signing day”
death to old way of life
living for the Kingdom!
Unity Defines Strength Of God’s Team

I Corinthians 12:12, 14, 19-20, 24-25

Key: mutuality – we rejoice together; we suffer together!

Because: we are His body! Vs. 27

What you do, you do with and to Jesus!
God’s Church Has a **Game Plan**

This is the plan:
* **preach** the good news of the Kingdom
* **call** people to repentance –

**Step #1** – “**salvation**” – “become a disciple”
**Step #2** – “**sanctification**” “grow as learner”

*(break with other team; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)*
Stealing? Lying? Fornication? Gay lifestyle?
Trans-sexual confusion? Pride? Fear? Anger?

Jesus in John 8 – “go and sin no more”
2 Timothy 4:3 – “the time will come wanting to have their ears tickled...”

So church is a body of believers who are committed to a given body of doctrine!
God’s Team Has a Strategy on Rebounding From Losses

When a Christian stumbles (1 Corinthians 5:9ff)
* sprint **TO** the Lord, not away
* confess the sin
* repent – “change your mind about it”
* “or else” = dis-fellowship (1 Cor. 5:11)

Result – 2 Corinthians 2:6-8 says “do this”
* reaffirm your love
* forgive him / her
* comfort him / her
God’s Team **Depends On You** To Cover Your Role As Team Member

1 Peter 4:10 – “As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another…”

** ID your giftedness – use it! To God’s glory**
  e.g. children’s, youth ministries
  Note: background checks required

** Serve one another!**
  Key to breaking down “Me, me, me…”
“Kicking – Off” With God’s Team!

Kick-off = * Launch or begin an activity
* Also, “leaving this life”

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints” (Psalm 116:15).

What is your eternal destiny?
Are you sure?
Is your conclusion based on God’s Word?