

Bucket Talk – Oh, C'mon Blue!

Bible Verses

James 1:19-20 'My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires'.

Galations 5:22-23 'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law'.

Romans 13:1 'Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.'

Yielding to HIS authority.....on and off the field



Baseball & softball...sports that rely on an entire team for a successful outcome. They are also sports where, during a stoppage in play, a manager or coach can approach an umpire to dispute a rule or argue a call. Unfortunately, not only have we all watched a manager or coach throwing a tantrum, kicking dirt on the plate, or verbally abusing an umpire on television, many of us have done the same thing ourselves. We've also seen or experienced an umpire retaliate in anger and sometimes lose control himself. As human beings, it's difficult to have someone yell at us or challenge our character in any setting, but especially in front of peers and spectators on a baseball or softball field.

Now...I am not the wisest of men, however in the many years that I have served as a baseball coach I have seen many things and learned a few lessons along the way. One thing that I know...arguing with or yelling at an umpire is NOT wise. It almost NEVER causes the umpire to change his decision, it is not the way to gain their favor for future calls and it is certainly not the example we are to set as leaders of those God has entrusted us with. Through my many conversations with umpires over the years, both on and off the field, I have realized that they struggle the same as we do. Just as we may lose sleep over plays that our athletes made... The ones that may have "cost us the ballgame", the umpires, the ones that have been placed in the position of authority on the field, also lose sleep over calls that they may or may not have gotten right. Umpires, managers, coaches, parents and ball players....we ALL came from the same dirt.

As we refer to the three scriptures above written by James, the brother of Jesus and by the Apostle Paul, we see sound biblical advice that not only will help us grow as Godly coaches and leaders of our athletes, but also in our roles off the field as husbands, fathers, employers, employees and friends.

The Apostle Paul wrote that the Holy Spirit produces self-control in those he indwells. We can't obtain this fruit by natural means; it is produced only when we look to Christ's control of our lives. Granted, our sinful nature wants to yell, get angry, show off, or get the last word. Even I sometimes have forgotten to give total control of my favorite game to the Lord. But when I've yielded my life—including baseball—to Him, I've been changed and have witnessed the fruit of self-control grow stronger.

When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we begin the greatest adventure of our lives: becoming like Him. Others will see a picture of Christ by our example, especially when the fruit of the Holy Spirit is formed within us. When He produces self-control in us, we are able to see our situation more clearly, control our emotions and actions, and allow Him to guide us in handling circumstances correctly. Living a Spirit-filled life means living in harmony with the life God intended us to live and bearing fruit that will last.