

Dedicated

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Those of us who are college sports fans probably have noticed an increasing problem in the sports world. College athletic event attendance has decreased rapidly over the last decade or so. Even tremendously successful college football programs have reported drops in fan attendance in recent years.

Many blame such attendance drops to things like high ticket, concessions, and parking prices; increasing ability to watch games from the comfort of one's home; etc. While these are certainly contributing factors, I think there is a much bigger issue here — People in our society are becoming less and less dedicated to their teams. Loyalty is becoming a thing of the past. School spirit is slowly dying as fans become less and less passionate about their teams.

While admittedly sometimes fans become TOO passionate to the point of making their team an idol, there is nothing wrong with fans passionately supporting their teams, willing them on to victory by showing up to the stadium and loudly supporting the team. But this is becoming less and less common.

Again, I believe it is because we as a society are becoming less and less dedicated. In the grand scheme of things, it's not really that big of an issue ... for sports... But what about when this type of mentality begins to affect the church?

Is it just me, or is it the case that people seem to be getting less and less dedicated to the church? You know what I mean. In many places, Bible class and worship attendance continues to shrink, church budgets are having to be adjusted for lack of needed funds, church members make excuses for not attending/being involved, such as, "My kids don't sleep at night," or "We have too much homework," or "Sunday is my only day off/chance to sleep in."

Quite simply put, excuses like this point to a lack of dedication to Christ and His church. Just as attending sporting events in person is being replaced by the modern convenience of watching the game at home on the big screen, so are Christians today skipping out on active Christianity by replacing it with things that are "more convenient." The mindset of many is as follows: "Why would I want to assemble with the saints, when I can watch a sermon from home with the wife and kids and call it a day? After all, 'where two or more are gathered!'" (That is a gross misapplication of that verse by the way!)

I think we need to re-teach our young people what it means to be committed to the Lord. We need to show them by example that, say, a Gospel Meeting takes precedence over ball practice. We need to show them that, whenever the church meets, we will be there. Whenever the church fellowships, we'll be there. Whenever the church is out working, we will be working right alongside them. Chances are that our children will not be dedicated to the Lord unless WE show them that WE are dedicated to the Lord.

"And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might" (Deut. 6:5).
With love, Chase