

Conflicts in Sports

- Competition creates conflicts and differences of opinion many times during a game.
- Main purpose / role of umpire, referee, or official.
- Umpires arbitrate – (act as a mediator)
- They stand between two players, or two teams and their fans to bring peace back to the field.
- Amazing to watch professional athletes with a small man in a striped shirt between them bring peace and harmony back into the intense conflict.
- But he has the authority to rule and govern and keeps peace and harmony on the field or court.

The Umpire in Greek Sports

- *brabeuo* To be a *brabeús*, an umpire, director or arbiter in the public Greek games. In the NT, to rule, govern, (Word Study Dictionary: NT 1018)
- *brabeuo* properly, "to act as an umpire" (*brabeus*) hence, generally, "to arbitrate, decide," Col. 3:15, Vines NT:1018
- Only used once in the New Testament:
- *And let the peace of God **rule (be an umpire)** in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Col. 3:15-16*
- The Holy Spirit wanted us to place the “*peace of God*” in our heart as an umpire or referee.

Only Used Once in NT

- AND(?) let the peace of God **rule (be an umpire)** in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Col. 3:15-16
- Why is there an “**and?**”
- Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 13 And let the peace of God... Col 3:12-15
- It is the umpire for emotions that sooth and calm.

What Does Peace Referee?

- We have powerful emotions!
- Anger, fear, dread, remorse, guilt, regret, godly sorrow, bitterness; leading to anxiety, despondency, depression and hopelessness.
- The “*peace of God*” stands between such emotions and the direction our heart takes!
- Peace has the power to remove these emotions and replace them with calming and soothing ones
- Since the Holy Spirit commands us to “make” this peace our umpire, we must learn how.
- When peace is our umpire / referee that can rule and govern within our hearts it stands between these powerful emotions and contains, lessens and removes them.

Letting the Peace of God Umpire

- 1st we trust God to fix what we can't control
- *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. Rom. 8:28*
- 2nd we trust God's intent to protect and resolve
- *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Rom 8:31-33*
- This will bring perfect peace!
- *You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Isa. 26:3*

Making Peace our Referee

- We have to let go of what we think is control.
- We have no control ... only God does!
- *Lord, my heart is not haughty, Nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, Nor with things too profound for me. 2 Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, Like a weaned child with his mother; Like a weaned child is my soul within me. Ps. 131:1-2*
- Peace is learning how to calm and quiet our soul
- *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort Ps 23:4*

When we Trust God – Have Peace

- *You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Isa. 26:3*
- *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. 8 It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones. Pr. 3:5-8*
- When we are overwhelmed we have to let go:
- *casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. 1Pet. 5:7*

Enthroning Peace as the Umpire

- *Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" Heb. 13:5-6*
- Full and absolute trust that God rules.
- When emotions grow and we become unsettled these thoughts will bring calm and peace.

Making Peace the Umpire

- When the world grows unsettled and dark clouds appear on the horizon of time, we trust God.
- *For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him. Heb. 10:37-38*
- Out of Habakkuk ...
- The world bringing tribulation, war, death, famine, fear, etc.
- The just (righteous) shall live by faith.
- *You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Isa. 26:3*

The Full Picture

- *“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.” Jn. 14:27*
- *“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.” Jn. 16:33*

The Full Picture

- *Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." Mt. 11:28-30*
- Our relationship with Jesus brings peace and rest to our soul.

The Full Picture

- *Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest... learn from Me, ... for I am gentle and lowly in heart, ... you will find rest for your souls.*
- Our relationship with Jesus brings peace and rest to our soul.
- *For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**. Isa. 9:6*

Peace is the Umpire

- *Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; 79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, **To guide our feet into the way of peace.** (Prophecy of Zacharias) Lk. 1:78-79*
- *Conflicts of Jesus in the Garden... Peace won! It is all perspective... God's will not Mine*
- *looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for **the joy that was set before Him** endured the cross, despising the shame, Heb. 12:2*

The Kingdom of God is ... *Peace*

- *for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Rom. 14:17*
- *Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all. 2Th. 3:16*
- There is therefore no doubt that Jesus intended, has the power, and expects His disciples to have peace.

Peace is the Umpire...

- *“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you”*
- *“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace”*
- *And His name will be called ... Prince of Peace*
- *To guide our feet into the way of peace.*
- *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,*
- *“Come to Me, ... and I will give you rest.*
- *Take My yoke...you will find rest for your souls*
- *the kingdom of God is ... peace*
- *the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way*

Peace is the Umpire

- A STATE OF MIND:
- *You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Isa. 26:3*
- A STATE OF ACTION
- *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:6-7*
- If we don't have peace ... one of these is undone!

Peace: It's All Perspective

- Therefore ***we do not lose heart***. Even though our ***outward man is perishing***, yet the ***inward man is being renewed*** day by day. 17 For our ***light affliction***, which is but ***for a moment***, is ***working for us*** a far more exceeding and ***eternal weight of glory***, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the ***things which are seen*** are ***temporary***, but the ***things which are not seen*** are ***eternal***. 2Cor. 4:16-18