



WHAT IS COMPETITION, AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Competition is an issue that elicits several different responses, but when we understand a healthy reason for competition, we can see that competition is not only a good thing but is a necessary thing! God is the creator of all things—including competition!

The World wants to define competition as establishing dominance over their opponent. This is an example of “***Broken Competition.***” The World has a desire to take things that God has created and change the focus from God to ourselves. In this Broken mindset, it is easy for our identity to be rooted in wins and losses. The outcome of games can begin to define who we are and what we can be.

The opposite of Broken Competition is what we call “***Redeemed Competition.***” The Bible uses the imagery of competition quite often throughout Scripture. The Greek word that we use for “contest” or “compete” can be translated as “to strive ***with.***” If we view Competition as an opportunity to strive ***with*** one another in order to bring out the best in ourselves and our opponent, competition can be redeemed and the glory from competition can be shifted back to God.

No one finds joy in losing, but with a Biblical perspective on competition we can glorify God in how and why we compete. When we understand that competition is an opportunity to push ourselves and our opponents to improve, we can celebrate progress rather than outcomes. We are able to compete more intensely when we realize that our identity is not wrapped up in the outcome and we can leave it all on the field!