

# TEAM PLAYER vs TEAM MEMBER

By Brooks A. Harris

Are you an active Team Player or just a Team Member? In some leagues, people are selected to be on a team, not for who they are or what they have done to be on the team, but because someone wanted that person to be on the team. They wanted that person to be accepted in their group. They wanted that person to have the opportunity to find joy in participating and enjoy the rewards of just being a member.

An active Team Player would be one who tries to learn all he/she can so they can better understand the game (or job). They would also actively participate and do their best to become a strong player. They would learn how to get along with and work well with others to effectively work as a team.

Someone who just sits on the bench and watches the others play is just a spectator. They may still be a Team Member because someone accepted them to their team, but if they don't get involved by learning and participating, they will never really be a Team Player.

The same is true in the Christian faith. If you are a Christian, it is because God selected you and drew you to Himself. You were not selected for anything you did; you were selected because God wanted you. It is true that you are saved by (God's) grace through faith (in Jesus), but it is God who gave you the faith.

By God's acceptance of you and your belief in Him, you are now a member of His organization. But to become an active player in the Christian faith, you need to study God's "Instruction Manual," the Holy Bible, and talk to God (the coach or Boss) through prayer and talk to other active believers. This process of becoming an active Team Player on God's team is called sanctification.

Once we join His team we are always on His team, and we are to continually work toward being a stronger player by improving our knowledge and understanding, and developing strong relationships with God and other believers. It takes this growth to become spiritually mature.

If you truly accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you are saved and are a member of God's team (His family). But if you fail to grow in your knowledge and understanding of God and fail to develop a strong relationship with God, then you are still spiritually immature. You will never fully enjoy the benefits and rewards of being on God's team until you become an active Team Player.

Spiritually mature people love God and love others. They enjoy doing things to help other people and enjoy sharing their faith in God. They learn to have joy in life even during difficult times. They have hope in the future and look forward to the fulfillment of the promises of God.

So, do you want to just be a Team Member (or spectator), watching others play the game, or do you want to be an active Team Player enjoying life the way it was meant to be? The more you put into learning the game, the more you will enjoy it.