

What a privilege it is to assemble together with God's people, and to continue steadfastly in the doctrine (teaching) of the apostles, in fellowship, in breaking of bread, and in prayer (*Acts 2:42*)! Yet, sometimes our faithfulness to the local assembly of believers can be lukewarm and sporadic. We need to learn some lessons from fanatical sports fans:

- 1) Fans arrive early. They hate to be late to a game. They do not want to miss anything.
- 2) Fans want the best seats, usually the seats closest to the action. Who ever heard of a fan wanting to sit way towards the back? The best seats are those near the front.
- **3) Fans** actively participate with gusto. They are vocal; they cheer; they stand; they clap. Yet some worshipers barely open their mouths when they sing.
- **4) Fans** never miss a game. Distance is not an issue. They will drive many miles to a game. Money is not a problem. They are willing to pay for very expensive tickets. The weather is not a deterrent. They will drive through rain, wind and snow rather than miss a game.
- **5) Fans** are knowledgeable. They know every fact about their team and every statistic about their players. They can tell a friend every detail of the game that they saw days earlier. How many Christians have a working knowledge of the Scriptures and can give a detailed recounting of the Bible message they just heard?
- **6) Fans** have no problem if the game goes longer than normal. They love overtime and extra-inning games. How do Christians respond when the Pastor goes five or ten minutes longer than usual? Fans also don't care when they get home or if their meal is delayed.

May the Lord help us to be totally devoted to that which is far more noble and loftier than sports!

~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org



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