

COACHES HANDBOOK

COACHING EXCELLENCE

We are committed to excellence in all that we do for our Lord. We prefer not to use the world's standard of excellence, but God's. Each time you coach this season is an opportunity for you to think God's thoughts and coach His way, reflecting His attitude.

Before we begin, remember, **there is nothing you can do on your power to think God's thoughts and perform His way!** THE SOURCE OF THIS POWER IS JESUS CHRIST LIVING IN YOU THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT. Coaching can be one of the most difficult areas to experience Christ's attitudes. Athletic competition draws out natural attitudes faster than most other areas of our lives. On the other hand, a coach has a built in platform for sharing the attitudes of Jesus.

EIGHT ATTITUDES OF CHRIST THAT CAN AFFECT YOUR COACHING

In order to accurately represent Him in coaching, you must understand the principles and attitudes Jesus would use in coaching your team.

1. **LOVE** – A willingness to give oneself sacrificially for his players, putting the players' interests before his own.
2. **PATIENCE** – A slowness to anger even when given bad treatment.
3. **JOY** – An attitude of gladness that doesn't change when circumstances change.
4. **PEACE** – A calm attitude even in the midst of problems and criticism.
5. **KINDNESS** – A calmness in dealing with players, fans, and officials even though angry voices and emotions surround you.
6. **GOODNESS** – A concern for a player's inner worth more than his physical attractiveness and skills.
7. **GENTLENESS** – a desire to serve and help players because the Holy Spirit directs you.
8. **FAITHFULNESS** – An attitude of reliability, enabling players to trust you.

Remember, the moment you believed in Jesus Christ and became a Christian you were given all the power you'll ever need to live these attitudes. **You can coach like Him because He is coaching through you.**

YOUR GOALS

Natural coaching goals, such as winning the championship, having an undefeated season, etc. can be satisfying but leads to many pitfalls.

1. If your goal is to simply win, it can result in let-downs when you oppose weaker teams.
2. A team faces the danger of letting down when their goal has been reached earlier than anticipated.
3. Natural goals, such as defeating another team, can lead to complacency when the score is soundly in your favor.
4. Natural goals lend themselves to outbursts of anger.
5. Natural goals lend themselves to an attitude of revenge.
6. Natural goals lead to criticism of teammates, opponents, and officials.
7. Natural goals result in alienated players when their playing time is reduced.
8. Natural goals lead to ego inflation, cheating, concern for personal statistics.

GOD'S ONLY GOAL FOR YOU IS TO CONFORM YOU AND YOUR PLAYERS TO THE LIKENESS OF JESUS CHRIST.

You are to consider everything you do in the light of how Jesus Christ would do it. You are to motivate your players the same way Jesus Christ would motivate them. You are to handle difficulties the same way Jesus Christ would handle them.

CONFORMING TO THE IMAGE OF JESUS CHRIST GIVES YOU A LASTING GOAL.

Jesus Christ represents absolute perfection. As you conform to His image, your maximum potential will be realized. This is the idea you should transfer to your team --- that you desire for them to reach their maximum potential in attitude and performance by conforming to the likeness of Christ.