



Newsletter

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WORKING TOGETHER

I am a huge fan of baseball. It is a great sport. One sports caster said, "Baseball is 2 and a half hours of boredom jammed packed into 2 minutes of excitement". And I believe that. It is that 2 minutes of excitement that you watch the game for.

Another writer said, "The idea of Baseball is simple; you throw the ball, you catch the ball, you hit the ball". And that is so true. Those three aspects encompass the entire game.

A third writer said, "Hitting a baseball might be the hardest thing to do in sports. They give you a round bat, and they throw a round ball at you, and they ask you to hit it squarely". And I would tend to agree with that. Baseball is the only sport that if you do your job well, you hit the ball three out of ten times and you're considered great.

What I appreciate so much about the sport of baseball is the team aspect. I was watching a game this past week and a team lost the game because two players ran into each other on a simple (and it really was a plain and simple) routine pop-up. They ran into each other, the ball dropped to the ground, and the winning run crossed home plate.

The main contributor to that awful play was seen in the dugout 2 hours after the game was over. Why? He felt terrible. He felt he was the main reason his team lost the game. Reporters saw him and asked his team mates about that play and their answer was amazing. Their reply to the reporter was, "Why are you not asking us about the errors we made? We all made mistakes. We all struck out. We all could have done our job better. You're focusing on one bad play." One guy made a mistake, but the whole team claims the blame of the loss. I appreciate the team aspect of baseball so much.

I Corinthians 11:14, 26-27 says, ¹⁴ For the body is not one member, but many. ²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if *one* member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. ²⁷ Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

I was amazed at how a baseball team could support their weak member and lift him up. I wonder how well churches do this. We can have the tendency to blame-shift or admit we had nothing to do with it by saying, "well I guess it is his fault". We wonder how a job doesn't get done, yet we offer little, if any, help to accomplish it. People often love their own "member" more than the whole body. They care more about their image than the whole body. They do not understand that caring more about themselves is hurting the body.

We are a body of believers, Christ's body, who can do great and amazing works when working together. Franklin Road Baptist Church, in my opinion, does a wonderful job at this, but with each passing day there is more and more need to remember we should be recognizing the necessity of supporting and lifting each other up. Nothing has changed. Since the world was created, times have been hard and God has given us a body to walk through this world. Let's use it. Let's see how strong this body can be.

Pastor Andy