

## LESS WITNESSING FOR GOD PLEASE!

Dear Friends:

The title of this article doesn't sound like one you would expect for a devotional. It is not biblically correct either. Before you tune me out, hear me out...

A few nights ago, I was watching a sporting event, and the winning coach was being interviewed. When asked how she felt about the victory and what emotions she felt, initially she sounded great. "First of all, I just want to praise God and give Him the glory. He's been good to us all year!". I can't quote her word for word, but she said a few more good words of witness.

The reporter doing the interview then asked something to the effect of: "How do you have such a strong top to bottom team?". I wish the interview would have stopped prior to the question, but it didn't, and the coach answered: "Our assistant coach is a (expletive) of a recruiter, just a really (explicative) recruiter. Even though I was watching this by myself, I put my head down and said out loud: "Why did you bring God into this?".

Let me immediately say this: I don't have room to talk, I know for a fact that at times both my actions and my words have hurt the Kingdom of God. You and I, however, don't have a national or world audience watching our double talk. James said it best: "Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be" (James 3:10). I am not picking on just this one coach. My point is, we could use a few less athletes and actors witnessing for God. Specifically, the ones where both praising God and cursing come out of the same mouth.

Don't get me wrong, I am sure there are thousands (maybe millions worldwide) of solid Christian athletes who do not have both praise and cursing coming out of the same mouth. C.J. Stroud may be one of those, he seems consistent in his witnessing. I believe Clark Kellog (former O.S.U. & NBA star) is a solid Christian witness too. I have heard him speak at least a half dozen times. A couple times we both worked the same Fellowship of Christian Athletes Camps, basketball for him, soccer for me. Clark (and maybe C.J.) would be the first persons to tell you God should be your top hero not athletes and actors.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayer: Family of Donna Clickenger, Paula Martin (kidney problems), Helen Smith (shut-in of the month).

Events: Women's Ministry Thursday, April 18th