

## Are you a Fan?

Tomorrow night will be the championship game of college football. Anybody here an (use whichever two teams make the finals) Oklahoma, Alabama, Michigan State or Clemson fan? Well good luck to all you fans. For those fans whose team did not make the playoffs there is always next year!

We call supporters of sports teams fans. We forget that is short for the word fanatic. While we typically don't like to be called a fanatic we don't mind saying we are a Sooner fan, or a Buckeye fan. Chicago Cubs, the perennial losers in Major League Baseball, have incredibly committed fans. You have to be a bit fanatic to be a Cubs fan since they have not won a World Series since 1908 and have not even made it to the Series since 1945! Yet their fans are some of the most loyal fans in baseball.

Here is what I know about fans...

They never miss a game of their favorite team often traveling miles to be there in person.

They have all kinds of clothing and other paraphernalia sporting their team's logo and colors. In fact, Americans spend over \$8 BILLION dollars annually on sports paraphernalia!

Fans spare no expense to support and cheer on their favorite team.

If you doubt any of that just watch tomorrow night or even this afternoons NFL games.

There is nothing wrong with having a favorite team and being a fan. You can even be a fanatical fan as long as you don't sit close to me!

Yet here is my question, could it be said of you that you are a fanatic for Jesus? Ouch! We might not like that question. Yet why is it OK to be fanatical about a team playing a game that has no eternal value but it is wrong to be fanatical about Jesus? And how is it that we think nothing of plopping down scores of dollars in support of our favorite team or sport but give to Jesus a few dollars each Sunday?

I know this offering talk might come off as a bit guilt laden. That is not my point. My point is to get us to think critically about what we value and why. There is nothing wrong with sports unless it surpasses our love of Christ. As you consider what you are going to give this morning reflect upon what that gift says about who you really are a fan of? Let's cheer on our team but realize that God wants us to support His work first and foremost. A gift today says a lot about what kind of God fan you are!