

Fantasy Football Mania

How many of you participate in fantasy football? You guys have your teams set yet? How many of you are in more than one league? How many of you are in two leagues? Three? Four? Anyone in more than that?

Some of you are probably asking yourself what is fantasy football? Fantasy football is a competition in which participants select imaginary teams from among the players in a league and score points according to the actual performance of their players. So, you could have the quarterback of the Cowboys and a running back from the Cardinals on your team. Your score is determined by how they do week by week. You participate in a league against other players teams.

While that might be new to some here it is exploding around the country. You could call it a Fantasy Football Mania! Consider these facts...

- Participation since 2003 has grown by over 270% so that nearly 60 million people participate today!
- Americans spend on average 9 hours a week on fantasy sports.
- Fantasy football is a \$19 billion dollar industry.
- The average participant spends \$465 dollars a year on fantasy sports.

Compare that amount to what one study found was the medium gift to a church yearly in America, \$200! Let that sink in.

Let me be clear, I am not against playing fantasy football or spending money on other leisurely pursuits as long as they don't rule your life. Yet what does it say when we spend so much time and money on something as fleeting as fantasy sports? What we spend our time and money on shows what we value.

Here at YOUR CHURCH NAME we are focused not on fantasy but eternity. We value people. Our goal is to move people into a loving relationship with our loving heavenly Father. That is our mania. And every week we pass an offering plate asking people to give to support our life changing work. Our work is not fantasy but fact. We are making a difference and we ask you to generously give this morning to help us impact our town for eternity!