

What Do You Value?

Do we have any Fantasy Football fans in here? Guess what you are not alone. Today there are over 59 million people playing fantasy sports in the USA and Canada. Fantasy football leagues are forming up now with the start of the National Football League about to kick off. In the next few weeks players will draft their teams and start competition.

For those of you wondering what Fantasy Football is you basically pick different players to make up your fantasy team. Then each week your players score points for you based upon their real game playing results in the National Football League's games. All your player's points are totaled up and that is your score. You are matched against an opponent in your league to see if your team beats their team. The team owners with the best record then reach the playoffs until a champion of the league is crowned. Some play just for fun while others play to win money.

\$556 dollars on average is spent by fantasy sports players annually. That amount is nothing compared to the fact that almost \$100 billion dollars will be spent this year gambling on college and professional football games.

Then take into account the salaries of players. The average salary of an NFL player is \$1.9 million dollars a year! Of course that average gets skewed because a few big name players have multiple million dollar yearly contracts. Rookies start out averaging "only" \$365K a year.

Contrast the average NFL player with the average starting salary of a school teacher in America which is \$36,141. The average for all teachers varies from state to state but it runs from the low \$40's to high \$40's. Think of that, some NFL players get paid more for one game than most teachers make in a year. One group imparts education for life the other group imparts entertainment for a few hours. I don't know about you but that seems to me that our priorities are not right. How we pay people shows the value we assign to them.

So on average fantasy football fans will spend \$556 dollars on a game. Yet the medium gift to a church in a year is \$200. One venture imparts a bit of fun and excitement. The other changes eternity. How we spend our money shows what we value.

Don't get me wrong, I am not against sports or Fantasy Football. I simply want to point out that we spend our money on things we want to spend money on. Where we spend our money and what we spend our money on tells a lot about us. As we take up the offering you today have an opportunity to invest into the future of girls, boys, women and men as we seek to advance the Kingdom of God in our city. How you give says a lot about what you value.