

KINGDOM PRINCIPLES SERIES
THE COMPETITION PRINCIPLE

Scripture:

John 3:25-30
Romans 12:10
I Corinthians 1:11-12; 3:3-7

Introduction

Anyone who has ever watched the television series "Dallas", has witnessed the scenario of competition. In the aftermath of Jock Ewing's death, by the provisions of his will, his sons, J. R. and Bobby, were placed in competitive positions to determine who would be most qualified to run Ewing Oil.

The consequences of their competition jeopardized both the family relationships and the financial health of Ewing Oil.

COMPETITION--Rivalry, the survival of the fittest to the detriment of the weaker.

I. The competitor is self centered rather than Christ centered
From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your own lusts that war in your members?

Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

James 4:1-3

A. The competitor's goals:

1. To gain supremacy over others
2. To gain recognition from others
3. To gain for himself

B. Self exaltation is the antithesis of a Godly attitude

And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Matthew 23:12

Luke 14:11; 18:14

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.

I Peter 5:6

II. The competitor is carnal and not spiritual

CARNAL--fleshly, pertaining to the natural desires and attitudes of men

For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

I Corinthians 3:3

- A. The divisive nature of competition is carnal
- B. The proud nature of competition is carnal
- C. The exclusive nature of competition is carnal

For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

I Corinthians 3:4

III. The model of non-competitiveness

He must increase, but I must decrease.

John 3:30

And there ran a young man, and told Moses, and said, Eldad and Medad do prophesy in the camp.

And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of Moses, one of his young men, answered and said, My lord Moses, forbid them.

And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake? would God that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit upon them!

Numbers 11:27-29

- A. The example of John the Baptist--John 3:25-30
- B. The example of Moses--Numbers 11:25-29
- C. Two lessons to competitors

- 1. Aaron and Miriam--Numbers 12

And they said, Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? AND THE LORD HEARD IT.

Numbers 12:2

- 2. Korah--Numbers 16:1-33