

Running the Race Well: Christian Vocation and Professional Sports

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This paper examines the role of athletes in the world of professional sports and unpacks whether it is a proper vocation to pursue as a Christian. The idea of vocation evolved from a call strictly for priests, monks, and nuns to serve Christ in the Catholic church, to a call for any believer to serve and glorify God in whatever work they choose.

Sports have existed since the beginning of time. However, sports look drastically different today from when they originally began. Professional athletics today are a massive industry engulfed in the goals of fame, glory, and wealth; however, they support many gifted individuals and entertain billions of spectators. Are professional athletics still a valid vocation as they were in ancient times? Is the bloated entertainment industry honoring to God? Considering these concerns, is there a place for Christians in the world of professional sports? Christians should evaluate their vocation in light of the Word of God. Professional sports as a vocation for Christians is pleasing to the Lord because professional athletes can honor and glorify God, can serve others, and can model the Christian pursuit of righteousness.