



Bethany Lutheran Church & Preschool  
5051 McCarty Road  
Saginaw, MI 48603  
[www.bethanysaginaw.com](http://www.bethanysaginaw.com)  
Phone: 989-793-9579

## Viewpoints

*Observing events in our modern world from the viewpoint of our ascended Savior.*

### There's No "I" in "Team" ~ February 21, 2014

*Lessons from the Winter Olympics lead us to rejoice in our Head, Jesus.*

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Is our United States speedskating squad at the Winter Olympics really "the most dysfunctional team in Sochi?" Apparently yes, because what youngsters on the community soccer field are being taught has been ignored by our speedskating squad, according to team mate Joey Mantia. He "tried to find a polite way of saying that his colleagues have yet to grasp that there is no 'I' in the word 'team.'"

One of our Olympic coaches added this commentary: "I am tired of being told that science is the only answer, that intuition and experience are not good enough. You can't teach a scientist to be a coach." Translation? Because one's natural tendency is to think that "I" is the more important letter in the word team, an important aspect of coaching is leading a group of individual athletes to function as a real team.

There's a lesson here for you and me according to the Dean of sports broadcasting. "Sports is a microcosm of life," explained the famous journalist who changed sports broadcasting into the genre it is today. My own life experience has proven Howard Cosell correct (d. 1995).

Sometimes we Christians are like self-centered Olympic athletes. When we have opportunity to worship together and to Bible Class together and choose not to, isn't that similar to snubbing a team practice? When we're satisfied that our spiritual condition is good enough, so that we limit our interaction with our fellow team mates, aren't we betraying an inner attitude that believes that "I" is indeed the most important letter in the word team?

Although scripture prefers a more personal term, it teaches many of the same truths inherent in the concept of team. "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body" (1 Corinthians 12:12-13). Could it be that your colleagues observe that you have yet to grasp that there is no 'I' in the words "one body?"

But get this: the coach of your team is also a fellow member on your team! And it is he who loves you, who forgives you, and who gifts you with another opportunity to share in the victory of this everlasting team will have.

Who is this player-coach? He's the Son of God who became your brother. With his own flesh and blood Jesus drafted you onto his team. With his grace and mercy he's given you an important role on his team. And through his promises, he's desiring to coach you into fulfilling the very purpose for which you were born, and finding the ultimate satisfaction of your life. This too-good-to-be-true dream is the reality that grows on you as you grow to understand how it is that Jesus belongs to you, and you belong to your fellow believers. "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body... Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it" (1 Corinthians 12:12,13,27).

The concept of teamwork is truly valuable, as the disappointment of our speedskating squad at Sochi has underscored. Truly, there is no "I" in the word "team." Yet scripture favors a more personal way to describe the togetherness and unity we enjoy because of Jesus: he is your head, and you are part of his body. And because he has already won, so have you! ✚✚✚

*Source Material (Links may become inactive over time.)*

[Meet the Most Dysfunctional Team in Sochi](#) @ sports.yahoo.com

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*Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike Nitz*

