



Week 4: BYLAWS

What do you think would happen if a coach or referee were to show up on Saturday for game day and say “ALRIGHT BOYS/GIRLS...the only rule today is THERE ARE NO RULES!”

What would that game look like? I can just imagine the ball “never going out of bounds”, kids being tackled like a football tackle, athletes being injured, the goalie (and really any player) coming out of his box and touching the ball with his hands wherever he wanted, throw-ins being taken with a one-handed side arm. I think everyone would cherry-pick for goals because there would be no offside, and so forth. So, with that all being said...**why do we need soccer bylaws or a soccer rulebook?** We need it for safety. We need it for enjoyment of the game. And ultimately, we need it so we can actually play a game of soccer rather than a game of football with tackling or baseball/rugby because we are using our hands the whole time.

In the same way we need rules in soccer, basketball, at home, and at school, we need rules over our lives. Last week we talked about you being CHOSEN, selected for God’s team and purpose. In Exodus we see God CHOSE another unlikely candidate for His work: Moses. God chose Moses after he had been saved as a Hebrew baby, raised by Pharaoh’s daughter as an Egyptian (who were enslaving the Hebrews, God’s people), and who actually KILLED an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew. He chose Moses...a murderer...to free the Hebrews/Israelites from slavery. And after asking Pharaoh to free God’s people, and inflicting ten plagues such as blood in the water, frogs, flies, lice, boils on the people, hail, darkness over the nation, death of the Egyptian firstborns and more, Moses was able to lead the Hebrews away from Pharaoh out of slavery. **Does anyone know what happened as they fled? Did pharaoh just let them go or change his mind and chase after?** He chased after them and the Hebrews almost got stuck at the Red Sea. But God Chose Moses to lead them out of slavery and that is what he would do! Moses raised his staff, and parted the Red sea so the Hebrews could walk on DRY LAND!! Once the Hebrews had fully crossed, the water closed back over Pharaoh and his army. The Hebrews no longer had to serve under Pharaoh’s cruel law. But they needed rules on how to act and behave with one another. **Does anyone know what laws Moses was given by God?** The TEN COMMANDMENTS, right. It includes things like you shouldn’t LIE, STEAL, MURDER, COVET. You should honor GOD and not other idols, you should HONOR AND OBEY your parents (uh-oh:)! The Bible may be full of rules and guidelines, but in the end much like we discussed above with soccer, they are not designed to ruin your lives...just like the rules made in your home by your parents! I promise they are not trying to just ruin your fun! The Bible is filled with hope and love, and it is also a rule book on how to live life to make your life and those around you more FULL and joyous.

2 Timothy 3:16 says "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness".

Some people think Christianity is just full of boring rules, but the Bible is actually a GOD-given (you know, given by the CREATOR who LOVES you), framework on how to have a good relationship with the Lord and others. And its a way for you to learn more about God’s heart and love for you. How often are you reading your Bible? God has given you HIS WORD, pick it up each morning to find out how He wants you to live your life, and to learn more about His hope, love and purpose for your life.

CLOSE IN PRAYER