

Greetings to all the living Saints at Manatee Life Church,

**SCRIPTURE:**

1 Peter 3:13 (AMP) – Larger reading: 1 Peter 3:1-7

*“Now who is there to hurt you if you become enthusiastic for what is good?”*

**STORY:**

Dwight L. Moody met a man at his hotel one day and asked in his abrupt fashion: “My friend, are you a Christian?” The man, stiffening somewhat, replied: “What do you think?” Moody replied: “Not a red hot one.”

**OBSERVATION:**

It isn't a secret that I love football, especially College Football and definitely University of Florida Gator Football ... Go Gators! I'll always take a good game played well ... regardless of which teams are playing. Over the years, as I have watched various games, I found myself creating a mental list comparing the average football fan and the average Christian. It is an interesting comparison.

The average football fan will:

1. Wear their team colors and logo with a T-shirt and/or baseball hat.
2. Fly those little flags from the car windows.
3. Put bumper stickers on their cars and one of those metal license vanity plates.
4. If attending the game at the stadium will arrive about an hour before the game, sit on a hard metal bench in a space too small for any human being in all sorts of weather – heat, rain, cold, snow, etc.
5. Spend a small fortune for their tickets, some even seasonal packet of tickets, as well as food from the concession stands.
6. Some fans will follow their team on away games by driving long hours or flying overnight and stay at an expensive hotel.
7. If their team is a college team they will pay the Booster Club a large sum of money for the privilege of purchasing their game day tickets.
8. They will stand for most of the game and cheer until they can hardly speak.
9. Fly a team flag from the house flagpole.
10. Speak to total strangers about their team and why their team is the best in the nation.
11. They will postpone, re-schedule or include out-of-town guests if the game is on.
12. And never, ever complain about any of this.

Now, how does this compare to the average Christian?

**QUOTE:**

*“Enthusiasm is contagious. Be a carrier.” - Susan Rabin*

**PRAYER:**

Lord, may we be so saturated with your joy and love that everyone who comes near us will get soaking wet! Amen and Amen

And the faith journey continues, Pastor Jim  
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***Share the worship experience with a friend today via our facebook page @ Manatee United Methodist Church.***

***Editor's Note: It always amazes me that no matter how often I read and reread these messages, a mistake can still slip through the cracks ... as it did in yesterday's prayer. It should have said:*** Keep us focused on the main thing today in all that we say and do. ***Thanks for overlooking my mistakes.***

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