

Super What?

Joe Slater

Not being a football fan, I could easily become negative regarding this “Super Bowl Sunday.” While no sin is involved in watching a football game, I am profoundly disturbed at the attention and devotion the Super Bowl receives from some Christians, especially when compared to their attention to spiritual things and their devotion to the Lord. Instead of criticizing the game, however, I want to lift up the Lord and His cause. Perhaps if we understood what a “Super” religion Christianity is, we would keep our priorities in better order.

In the first place, we have received super-abundant grace from God. *“And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus”* (1 Timothy 1:14). In Paul’s language, “was exceedingly abundant” is one compound verb which literally means “super-abounded.” God’s grace doesn’t drip down from heaven, it cascades in a flood! He doesn’t dole out His grace by the teaspoon, but sends it in rivers!

One of the marvelous results of God’s grace is that we have the *“peace of God, which surpasses understanding”* (Philippians 4:7). Paul’s word “surpasses” is another compound word beginning with “super.” The peace God gives is so far superior to anything the world offers that it defies understanding.

A companion to that glorious peace is the joy of which Paul wrote: *“I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation”* (2 Corinthians 7:4). Once again, “exceedingly” has that word “super” on the front. Literally, it means “super-abundantly.” Even in the midst of severe trials, Paul was not only joyful, not only abundantly joyful, but super-abundantly joyful!

Christians ought to be the most joyful people on earth – even more joyful than the football fans whose team wins the Super Bowl!

What was Paul so happy about? And why should we be so happy? God’s grace and peace contribute mightily to our joy, but consider also the grand victory He has given us over the World. *“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us”* (Romans 8:37). Paul’s expression “more than conquerors” is another compound word, literally “super-conquerors.” I suspect that both Super Bowl teams would like to win – BIG! In Christ, we don’t just barely squeak by; we are super-conquerors. As Peter wrote, *“. . . an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”* (2 Peter 1:11).

God extends super-grace, giving us super-peace and super-joy, and making us super-conquerors. Watch the Super Bowl if you wish, but please don’t let it detract from the super blessings that are yours in Christ!

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Commitment

Part of our confession of Christ is letting everyone know that on Sundays we have a commitment at certain hours that takes precedence over all others. If anyone plans anything at such hours and expects our presence, they will be disappointed. Christ comes first.

-- J. Randal Matheny (via quickbibletruths.com)

MORALS

"Religion I hold to be essential to morals"

(John Adams to Benjamin Rush, 18 April 1808).

Where do morals come from? Atheists would have you believe that people got together and came up with a code of moral behavior over time. Bear with me. Suppose atheists are right and evolution is the answer to life. Evolution proclaims the survival of the fittest or strongest.

God given morals benefit the weak and helpless. If evolution were the basis of life, morals would benefit the strong. The strong would never surrender their rights to the weak. We know for a long time in human history kings did not allow their subjects to challenge anything they did.

Therefore, morality must come from outside human thought. Morals have to have been given from the beginning of humanity. When God confronted Cain, Cain knew that murder was wrong. Moral behavior is not evolved. It is God-given. The reason I can say that is because the morals that we have are seen in God's character. We were created in His image to have like character. We are to behave like our Creator.

God cares for the weak and helpless. He deals fairly and expects us to deal fairly with others. God is dependable, trustworthy, and honest. As we read the Scriptures, we need to look at them in order to see our Father's character. Our morals need to be patterned after our Father's characteristics.

Jesus summed up our morals, our behavior, when He said, *"In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets"* (Matthew 7:12).

--Ed Wittlif (Denver, CO)