



The Truth

Aletheia Group weekly newsletter

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“He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also is vanity.”
Ecclesiastes 5:10

The NFL Players Association (NFLPA) and many of its members say without them there would be no football. That’s like you saying without you, your employer would not exist. –Dave–



UNSHACKLED

Really? A column on the NFL lockout? What does that have to do with aletheia

truth, our nation’s founding, and the relationship of politics and religion? Good question!

First, we have a classic example of class warfare being used as a weapon by another union. How do I know this? While you might not be able to find a lot of statements from the now defunct NFLPA, there are plenty of willing accomplices in the media who are well-versed and currently deeply steeped in the class warfare mode. Check out this nugget from the [Seattle Times](#):

“The 2011 season is in jeopardy again because some of the richest people in the world think they need even more money.”

That is a class Saul Alinsky tactic. Attack a businessman for wanting to make more money so he can stay in business. I suppose the greedy owners are supposed to use their personal wealth to keep the NFL season going. Really?

From what school of business did you learn that model?

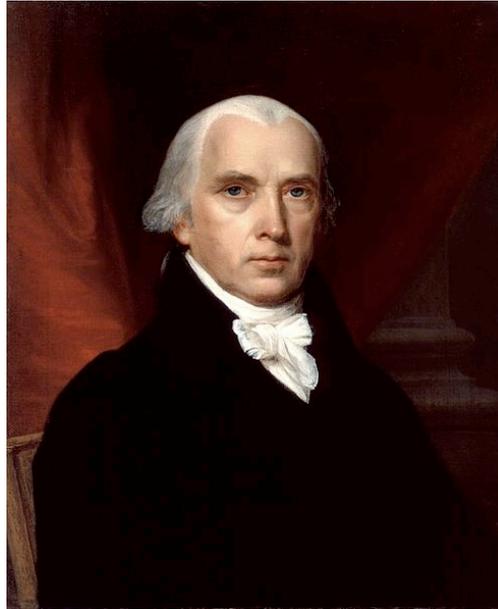
Granted, many a businessman invested much of their personal wealth as start up capital, but if you have to continue to do that then your business is not successful. So it is with the NFL.

Second, the economic impact on a community is being [disputed](#) by some, including some supposed economics professors. However, as is the case with Professor Coates, many economic intangibles are not being considered. Not so with the city of [Kansas City](#). Mayor Sly James says that even missing one game would have a serious economic impact on the city.

Owners are in the business of professional football to make money. That’s what allows them to continue as a business. Players make fantastic salaries to play a child’s game. The owners have come up with a sound agreement and if there is no football this year, it will not be the fault of the greedy owners.

It will be the fault of the greedy players.

FROM THE FOUNDERS



How our Founders viewed the abusive power of a faction over the rights of the people and best interest of the nation:

“By a faction, I understand a number of citizens, whether amounting to a majority or a minority of the whole, who are united and actuated by some common impulse of passion, or of interest, adversed to the rights of other citizens, or to the permanent and aggregate interests of the community.” James Madison - Federalist Paper 10

The players union, once it is reestablished, is a faction with measurable power. Although it is the owners who have locked the players out, the bargaining power of the now defunct NFLPA is a force to be reckoned with, and one being lead by [lawyers](#) with their own personal interests.

And now that an agreement is on the table, the [dissolved union](#) is crying foul, even though it was they who decertified themselves, thereby forcing the owners to lock the players out. The NFLPA knew this would happen and they decided to forego collective bargaining and, through 10 NFL players, sued the NFL. The union had a good proposal on the table, but when they disbanded, they left the owners with no real options.

At the heart of the matter is the players’ belief that they have a right to the 9 billion dollars of revenue. Excuse me, but isn’t your salary, and all the perks, monetary awards, and benefits you negotiate individually your cut of the revenue? I cannot think of any other industry (unless lead by a greedy and power-hungry union), that believes it deserves a cut of the owners’ profit margin.

This may not make me very popular with those siding with the players, but their stance is in their own interest and not that of “the permanent and aggregate interests of the community.”

FROM THE PULPIT

“Greedy people measure life's worth and value by the abundance of possessions. He or she is judged most successful who has the most money, the biggest dairy, the most expensive car, the biggest investment portfolio, the most recreational vehicles, the biggest home, or the best vacation home on the beach or in the mountains. Jesus is not saying it is wrong to have riches. Nor is He saying it is wrong to have a savings plan or an IRA. We all realize that a certain amount of material goods is necessary for life. What Jesus is saying is that a greater abundance of goods does not mean a greater abundance of life.” A sermon preached by Rev. Adrian Dieleman on August 4, 2002 at Trinity Unity Reformed Church in Visalia, CA.

The Reverend Dieleman was preaching on “The Parable of the Rich Fool” found in [Luke 12:13-21](#). As I said earlier, the crux of the problem in the NFL lockout is the players are focusing on the revenue that is brought in from the business that is the National Football League. But if players are entitled to profit-sharing with the owners, should not all employees be entitled to sharing in the profits of their employers? Should not the worker at Cisco Systems have a share of the 20% profit margin that his or her employer achieved?

The deal brought to the table by the owners is very fair. It [includes](#) “\$620 million for a legacy fund to help former players from before 1993.” One thing I found interesting is that “current players receive full medical coverage for the rest of their lives,” according to the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Really? Do you think the owners are absorbing that costs or passing it on to ticket holders? Why do multi-millionaires need lifetime health coverage.

Who do they think they are, Congress?!!

We have become a nation who feels it is entitled to the possessions of others. This is not how we started out. This is not how the Lord Jesus Christ wants us to live out our lives as Christian citizens. In fact, He warns against it in “The Parable of the Rich Fool.” When we become preoccupied with others and our own possessions, then we miss the mark of living the abundant life Jesus wants for us.

The late, great Leonard Ravenhill wrote of such in a 1964 Dayspring article, and we will leave this page with his thoughts:

“If we were not so preoccupied with lesser things, we would be grief-stricken that we have failed to inherit our possessions in Him. In failing Him, we hurt His dear heart day by day.

We are too preoccupied!”

TO THE STREETS

So what role can you citizen-fan play in this NFL lock out? Obviously we cannot directly influence the outcome of the negotiations. We can let the owners and players know how we feel about the game. We can also let them know that if their allegiance is to themselves then our allegiance to the game will no doubt be damaged.

However, there is a bigger lesson to learn in all of this. Successful producers in a free market system are going to acquire wealth. The accumulation of wealth in and of itself does not constitute greed. The greed comes in our preoccupation with the possessions we have and desire.

And in that preoccupation is where, as Bro Ravenhill so rightly described, we focus on lesser things that keeps us from the real inheritance that is the abundant life Jesus spoke about.

The great wealth of the NFL, both owner and player, can be used for the betterment of the community, and much of it has been used in that manner.

But it seems as though, as is the case in much of America, our national focus has been shifted away from what made the NFL great.

One of the greatest NFL football coaches ever is the legendary Vince Lombardi, who once said this about football:

"Football is like life, it requires perseverance, self-denial, hard work sacrifice, dedication and respect for authority."

So this week as you are standing around the water cooler at work, in line waiting to order your lunch, or just talking with a neighbor and the topic of the NFL comes up, I encourage you to drop into the conversation the issues we've raised here at The Truth.

Perhaps this has inspired you to write a letter to the editor on the subject, or call your local conservative or sports talk radio show.

Wherever you decide to pick up the discussion, remember that a Truth Watch member is prepared to insert factually accurate points and counter-points into the conversation. This is how we best can defend the truth, wherever that may lead.

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