

Church and Sport

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Sport Critical Circle

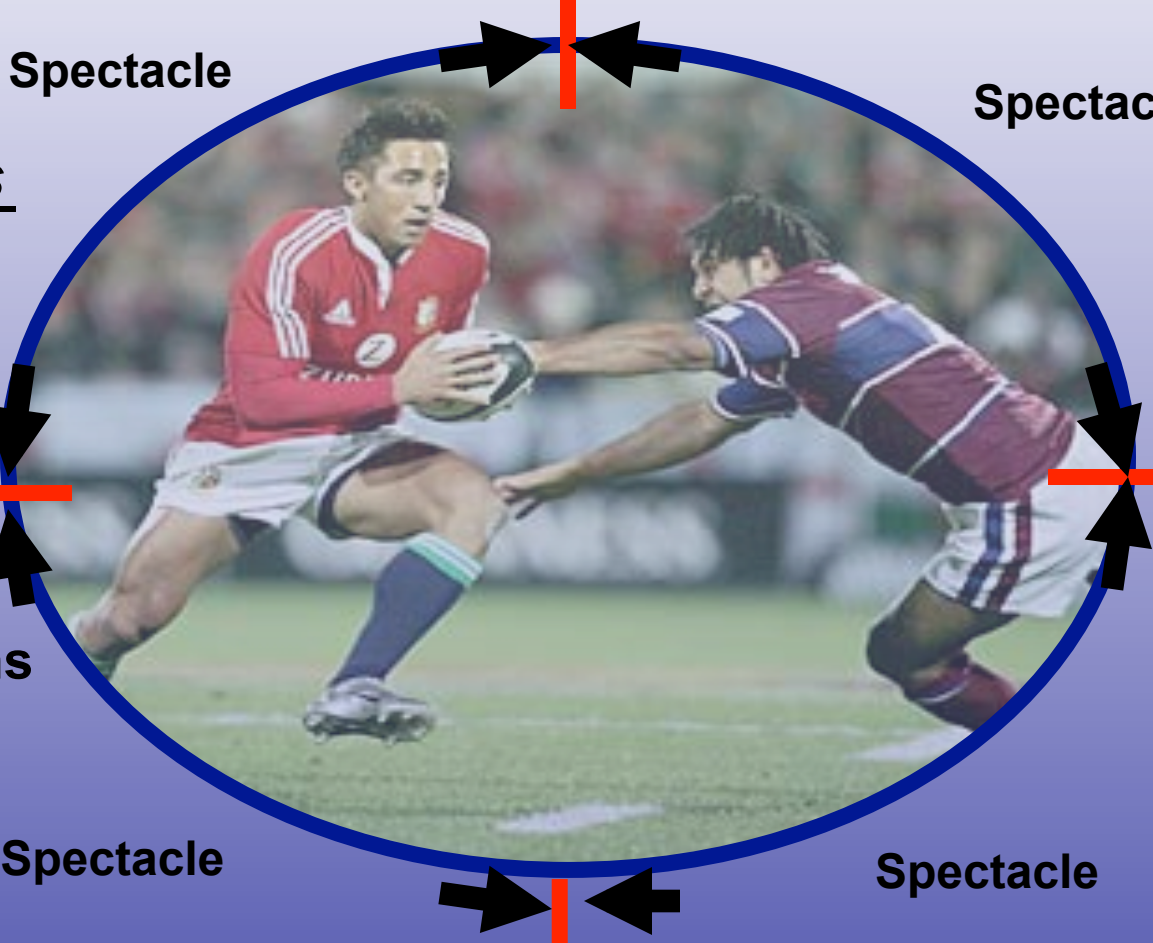
Wider Network



Worldview: Sport-specific Beliefs, Belonging and Behavior

Spectacle

Spectacle



Viewers: Audience, Fans, Media, Parents, etc.

Spectacle

Spectacle

Wider Cultural Network:



Socio, Political, Economic, Scientific

Proprietors

- Owners
- Gov. Bodies
- Execs.
- Sponsors
- Player Unions

Game: Relationships (e.g., Coach, Athlete, Opponents, Refs/rules)

Non-Neutrality

Since sports are a complex interaction of multiple narratives and relationships that are set within a wider network of institutions, interests, values, and ideologies, then sports are not neutral (value-free) activities.

Coaches: Multiple Roles

- 1) Helping Professional (Therapist)
- 2) Mentor/Positive Role Model
- 3) Manager
- 4) Dad/Mom
- 5) Instructor/Teacher
- 6) Encourager
- 7) Disciplinarian
- 8) Strategist
- 9) Leader

Issue: Although these profiles might be helpful in general, none of these essentially distinguish Catholic-based coaching from non-Christian coaching, and therefore there are limitations to these concepts and perspectives.

Where do Christians turn?

- Conflicts, Challenges, Confusion
- Why? Why? Why? (Theological Convictions)
- Professor Norbert Müller's Research
- Question: What difference then does being a **Christian** make for the role of a coach?

Vatican II

- Dialogue with modern culture
- Implementation of a Christian paradigm which the Council Fathers applied to all cultural spheres and callings [even sport-*Gaudium et Spes*, 61] and therefore by implication to the vocation of coaching
- Christocentric Aim for Coaches: *Gaudium et Spes*, 22 and 24 (Formation into the image of Christ)

Lumen Gentium 31

“[Christians] are by baptism made one body with Christ and are constituted among the People of God; they are in their own way made **sharers in the priestly, prophetical, and kingly functions of Christ; and they carry out for their own part the mission of the whole Christian people in the Church and in the world.**”

Catechism of the Catholic Church

“Jesus fulfilled the messianic hope of Israel in his threefold office of priest, prophet, and king. . . . Jesus Christ is the one whom the Father anointed with the Holy Spirit and established as priest, prophet, and king. The **whole People of God participates in these three offices of Christ and bears the responsibilities for mission and service that flow from them. . . .**”

Problem of Dualism

“The Christian who neglects his temporal duties, neglects his duties toward his neighbor and even God, and jeopardizes his eternal salvation. Christians should rather rejoice that, following the example of Christ Who worked as an artisan, they are free to give proper exercise to all their earthly activities and to their humane, domestic, professional, social and technical enterprises by gathering them into one vital synthesis with religious values, under whose supreme direction all things are harmonized unto God's glory.” (GS, 43)

At the heart of the problem of dualism is a skewed theology, often a separation of creation and redemption, and in order to repair and resist this challenge of dualism, we must implement the prophetic, priestly, and kingly functions or tasks of our Lord in and through such mundane affairs as sports.

Thesis

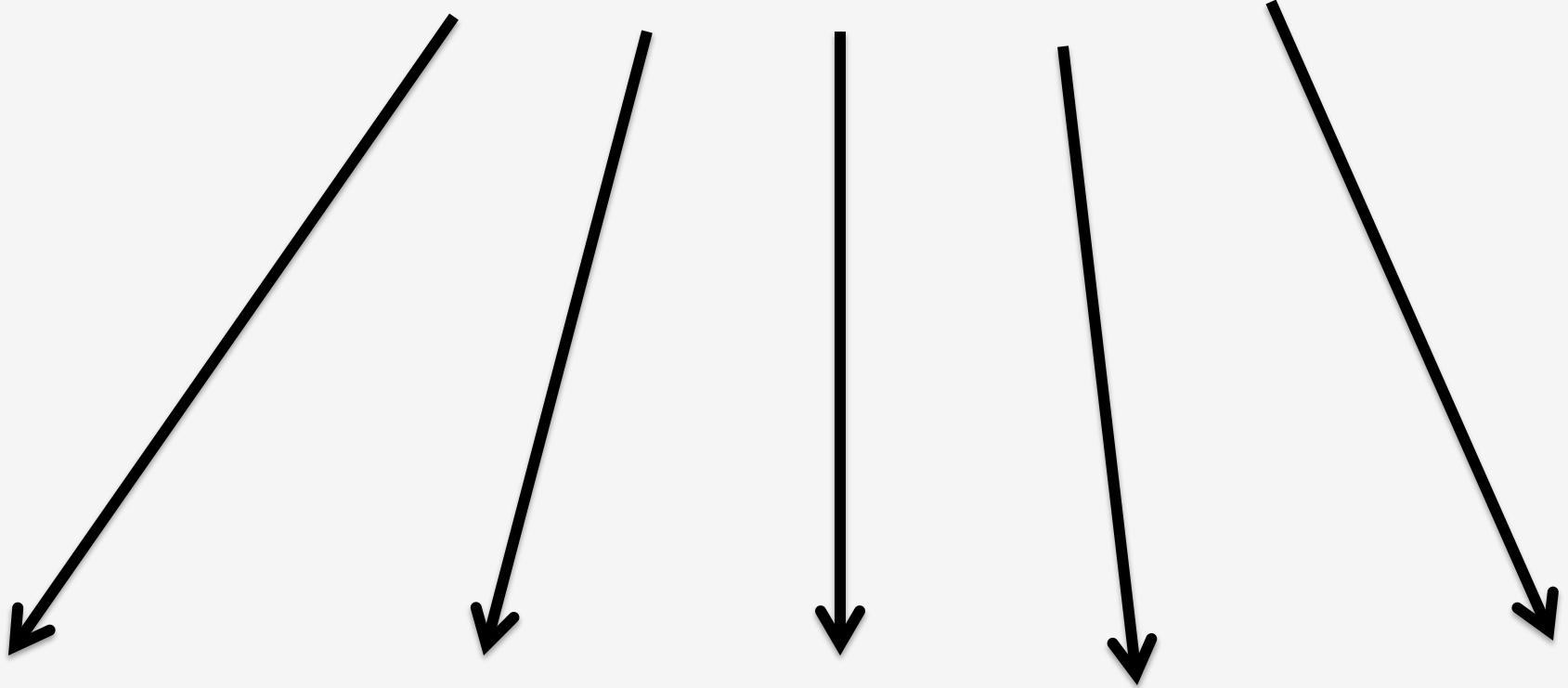
Because our moral and spiritual lives as Christians entail living out the human dimension (who we are and what we do) from the reality that only in the mystery of the incarnate Word does the mystery of humankind take on light,¹ then the vocation of a coach should equally respond with the necessary requisite attitudes, virtues, and actions which reflect the Reality of revelation and redemption. In particular, coaches in response to this indicative of redemptive reality demonstrate a posture of obedience when they share in the threefold office of Jesus as priest, prophet, and king.

¹*Gaudium et Spes*, 22: The truth is that only in the mystery of the incarnate Word does the mystery of man take on light. For Adam, the first man, was a figure of Him Who was to come, namely Christ the Lord. Christ, the final Adam, by the revelation of the mystery of the Father and His love, fully reveals man to man himself and makes his supreme calling clear. It is not surprising, then, that in Him all the aforementioned truths find their root and attain their crown.

Warrant

Gaudium et Spes 22 is arguably the most important basic conviction from the teaching of Vatican II. And when seen as the theological lens from which to understand all of life, our exercise of this doctrine in sports is even more needed today in sports, because of the regnant worldviews which threaten to eviscerate and undo human dignity. What this means for coaches is that they have a 3-fold responsibility to assist and mentor their athletes in their search of their true humanity. (Cf. *LG*, 31-36)

Prophet, Priest, and King



Family/Marriage

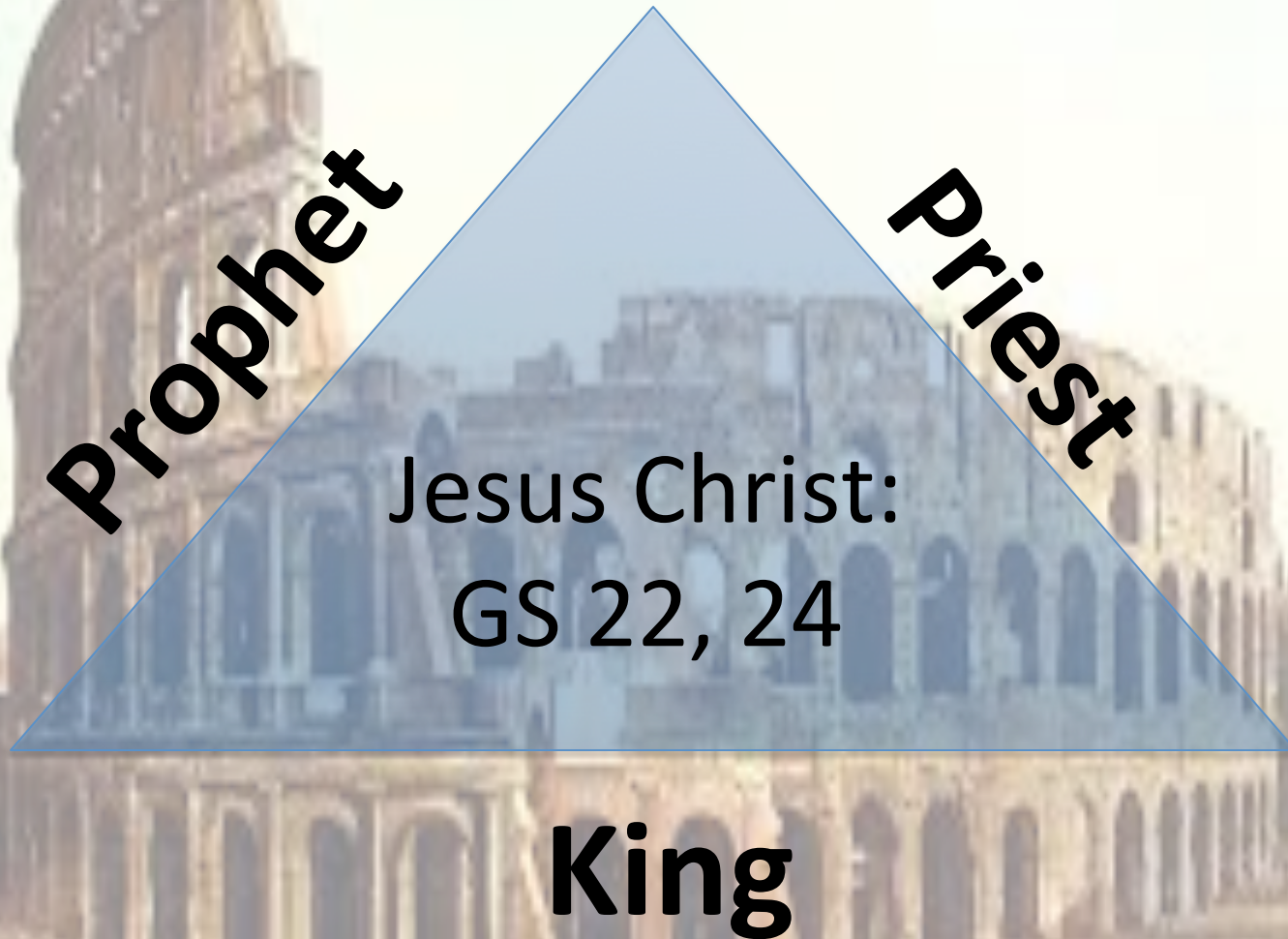
Economics

Politics

Art

Sports

Missional Coaching: Coaching as...



Definition

What is a Coach as Prophet, Priest and King?

It is a Coach who participates in Christ's ministry by modeling the right sacrifice (Priest), speaking the right word (Prophet), and stewarding the right rule (King) in the right way (virtue) at the right time (wisdom) in the sphere of sports and beyond (culture).

Coach as Priest, Prophet and King

3-Fold Responsibility

- Priest: Modeling, Caring, and Celebrating (Love)—(Goodness)
- Prophet: Teaching, Critiquing, and Envisioning (Hope)—(Beauty)
- King: Creating, Stewarding, and Building (Faith)—(Truth)

Benefits

1. Revelation-based and Christocentric
2. Multiperspectival (non-reductionist)
3. Holistic
4. Connects sacred Liturgy to earthly liturgies (Sunday to work-week; no sacred-secular split)
5. Overcomes the problem of dualism
6. Gospel and Ethics