

As I sat watching the remaining moments of the second quarter of the Steelers vs. Chiefs Sunday night football game, I became enamored with the host of Sunday Night Football on the WSMV channel 4 when he made the following statements; “For those of you too busy keeping up with the Kardashians to notice, we live in a culture that in many ways grows more stupid and graceless by the moment. Sports both reflects and influences that sorry trend, so on playing fields everywhere, true style is in decline, while mindless exhibitionism abounds.”

Those were his opening statements that led into a flood of other comments about the flamboyant exhibition in which touchdowns are celebrated. He talks about the invention of the spike—“late '60's, the Giants had a receiver named Homer Jones. He invented the spike — and it was great; a simple, elegant punctuation that somehow has devolved into this.” There is one thing I think Costas missed and it is this: How one minor thing, such as Homer Jones and the “simple, but elegant spike” has turned in to this ‘mindless exhibition.’” He even goes so far as to ask this question, “Where are the coaches in all this? Guys are routinely benched or called out for blown assignments. When is a coach going to make an overdue statement and sit a guy down on the grounds of pure selfishness and unprofessionalism detrimental to his team?” I can say, as a sports fan, I couldn't agree more, but I still think he is missing the point of origin. It all began with a small display of throwing the ball to the ground in a seemingly defiant manner. Now it has turned into mayhem after a touchdown has been scored. Now believe me, I'm not saying one cannot nor should they not be excited when they score a touchdown, but I am making the statement it is out of hand.

I cannot help but apply this to our spiritual life. We imagine one little sin being so insignificant and think that all okay. That is until the moment that sin leads to larger and larger and larger sin; until the moment comes where the sin in our life surrounds us like a pack of hungry wolves and engulfs our every action. We begin to live flamboyantly and reckless. We flaunt our worldliness to the point just not caring. So I pose the question: Where are the preachers, the elders, the deacons, the parents and grandparents, where are the Christians who have been commanded to seek and save the lost? Here is the answer—far too many are looking only outward instead of inward. Many, including myself, have far too many times let others bear their own burdens. For that I apologize and ask your humble forgiveness as I have asked God to forgive me of that shortcoming.

Church—it is way past time for us to step into action and speak where that Word of God speaks and remain silent where God's Word is silent. While many of our wayward brother and sister's are drowning in a sea of sin, let us be the ones to throw the lifeline to them. Let us be the ones who the world sees as followers and believers of God. May we see the worldliness and evil that surrounds our life as the guise of satan and the light of the Gospel as our pathway home.

In Christ,

Joe Rhodes