

The Opposition

When I was a school kid our football team hated playing Highland Park and Ennis (Dallas area). Highland Park was a wealthy community, and we thought the “rich kids” would be soft and easy to beat. Nope! They were strong, well-coached and we barely won! Ennis was the opposite. They were a lower income farming community (at least in the 1960s) and the kids were large, muscular boys of Czech descent (Ennis even has a national Polka Festival). Yes, we won, but we didn’t sing victory songs on the bus on the way home - we were battered and bruised, and we just flat hurt! All our other games we won handily up to District. *But I learned a life-long lesson, “It makes a huge difference who the opposition is!*

God tells us we get to choose our opposition in life, and we cannot refuse to choose. And guess what... it’s not like Starbucks with 50 choices. Ultimately, there are only two choices that exist, God and Satan. You can make God your enemy or you can make Satan your enemy. Every person, consciously or subconsciously, makes the choice, by actually choosing, or by the behaviors (mental or physical) in which we engage.

Some of the choices are obvious before you are five years old, “Steal a cookie or not; lie to mom or not, smack your little brother or share your cookie with him (not the stolen one!). As we mature, the subjects change, but the basics do not. Moral behavior, driving habits, plagiarism on that term paper, calling in sick when the ski slopes have champaign powder... you get the idea.

But one choice that makes God your head coach or your opposition often goes unnoticed. That choice is pride (the negative kind in which you decide that you are better or more important than others).

Many forget that James, the brother of Jesus, wrote about making God your opposition, “God is **opposed** to the proud, but gives grace to the humble,” James 4:11. Peter wrote the same thing in 1 Peter 5:5. All it takes is pride and BOOM, God is your opposition. You will never win the game of life, spiritually or practically, when you get on the wrong team and make God your literal opposition. Notice also that He give grace to the humble and by grace we are saved (Ephesians 2:8). All humans choose one or the other, there are no other choices in this arena! Choose wisely!

-Ray Wallace

See also: Prov. 15:33; 16:18; 22:24; 29:3; Eph. 4:1-3; Philippians 2:1-4; James 1:21.