

Be The Church

By: Ryan O'Neil

Ephesians 4:16

"From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

Following the 2009-2010 basketball season the sports world was abuzz about what was happening at the Heat. Sportscasters everywhere had to work extra hours reporting what was going down in Miami. It seems Micky Arison, the team's owner, was trying to create a super team. On July 7, the Heat signed Chris Bosh and resigned Dwayne Wade. A day later, after an hour long episode that many people likely thought was a soap opera, LeBron James was signed to the Heat. The three were known as "The Big Three." Surely, a team with these three guys could beat any other team and take the national championship. There was one small problem: a TEAM has 5 players, and the quote-unquote "Three Kings" didn't add up to five people. They made it to the 2011 Finals, but ended up losing to the Dallas Mavericks in game 6.

Let's get it out on the table right now: it doesn't matter how awesome part of the group is. It matters about the whole group. We can get into a mindset that says, "Our group is good enough." NO! We must have everybody! How many wars have been lost because a really good battalion cared more about winning their little battle than winning the whole war? We have more people interested in winning an

MVP trophy for themselves than winning a championship trophy for the team!

We have an awesome youth group! We have powerful things that happen at our youth services. At youth camp, lives are changed. We've seen diseases healed and people filled with the Holy Ghost. It's fun to be a part of the youth group and be able to go on trips. It's awesome to have a place where you belong as a young adult. But we have to remember: **God never called us to be the youth group. God called us to be the church.**

We NEED young people playing piano in youth service. But more importantly, we need young people playing piano in church! We need young people inviting people to youth service. But we need youth inviting people to church more! Your friends need to have a place like youth service where games are played and modern music is played. But even more, they need a service where they realize it's not SUPPOSED to be about them. It's about Christ and His Sacrifice.

There will be a time when you're no longer in the youth group. If you don't fall so in love with what God has called you to, you will be lost because you never found a place in the church: only the youth group. We need every part of the body working together for God. That includes *you*.