



from the desk of

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## Triage

### **Ephesians 5:15-17, ESV**

“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” –

Dear Parents,

In going through the *TRIAGE* acronym I mentioned last week, the first letter stands for *trials*.

After looking at several surveys, plus my own personal observations, it seems to me that one of the biggest issues parents face today is simply *having enough time* to do everything they want to do in life.

I see many parents so pushed by trying to do so many things for their children - scheduling them to the max. Our society today seems to push us to think that we're not doing well for our kids if we don't have them signed up to do *something* almost year-round.

What suffers is simply time to be together as a family as well as time to be together as a church family. Some years ago, we already had a family at Bethel whose early elementary aged children just never could make it to Sunday School. They were in Houston nearly every weekend at swim meets (not picking on swimming - that was just their thing - you can substitute just about any sport for swimming).

Fast forward to today and it certainly hasn't gotten any better. Increasingly even middle school youth, to play in any school sports, are compelled to be on tournament teams, do weekend tournaments and at least some sort of practice nearly all year. I've had some of the 7<sup>th</sup> graders say that they were relieved that the recent volleyball league was finally over.

So, what is a parent to do? Sure, you want your child to be able to experience being part of a team, and even to perhaps excel in their particular sport. That's all well and good.

In the middle of all of this, I contend that you must really check your priorities. What is important. What are your goals for your child? If it's a college athletic scholarship, let me warn you that those are very rare. In my years of working with youth the number of young people that I've known get any kind of athletic scholarship is probably in the single digits. That kind of ability is very rare.

Being part of a sport can be a life skill kind of thing. Having the experience of being disciplined to contribute to a team is a good thing.

In the middle of all of this, a couple of words of caution.

These young people will soon be out of this arena of competition, and they'll have many more years of you being their parent beyond their years of team sports. What kind of relationship are you building with them that will be foundational for the rest of their lives?

Even longer than that, what type of relationship are you fostering them in their relationship to God?

A Christian satire website that I really enjoy ([www.babylonbee.com](http://www.babylonbee.com)), offered the following take on the overscheduled child and its result. Sadly, this is all too true:

<http://babylonbee.com/news/after-12-years-of-quarterly-church-attendance-parents-shocked-by-daughters-lack-of-faith/>

So, in the midst of the busyness, using the line of the old knight in "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade," "*choose wisely.*" A lot depends on it. The relationship of your children to you and more importantly to Jesus as their Lord and Savior I believe trumps working for that perfect overhand serve.

Need further ideas with specific needs? I'm only an email away! ([dcerandy@blcbcs.org](mailto:dcerandy@blcbcs.org)).

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