The Sweet Spot of Serving

Ready:

"Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the lead in honoring one another. Do not lack diligence in zeal; be fervent in the Spirit; serve the Lord."-- Romans 12:10-11

Set

When I was a teenager, I played a match I'll never forget. I'd drawn a top seed at a national tennis tournament. My opponent and I battled the purest match I've ever played before or since with points won on effort, not errors. Back and forth were the deuce-ads, neither of us willing to give up. When it was over, I was elated. I had never played that well. She and I hugged, drenched in perspiration. The score? 6-1, 6-1. (For her!) According to the score I had been crushed. It was strange to feel simultaneously exhilarated and embarrassed.

Yet, God taught me a valuable lesson on serving – not aces, not others, but Him. God showed me that while I played, I respected her and her play (love and honor), and I intensely fought for every point (with diligence and fervent in sprit). Because of that, I served Him in that match. And on His scoreboard, I won.

In serving Him, I was in effect also serving my opponent, my teammates and the spectators. And just like the exhilarating feel of hitting the "sweet spot" for a blistering ace, perfectly disguised drop shot or winning point, I had discovered the sweet spot of serving my God. And no win could replace my elation.

Go

1. How does serving Him in your sport serve your opponent, your team and the spectators?

Workout

Romans 12:9-18

Mark 12:28-31

Overtime

Lord, even in the midst of competition when it can be the most difficult, help me to be in the sweet spot of serving; Serving You first by displaying love, honor, diligence and fervency in spirit.

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