

Monday, April 25, 2016

Several years ago at the Seattle Special Olympics, nine contestants, all disabled, assembled at the starting line for the 100-yard dash. At the gun, they all started out, not exactly in a dash, but determined to finish the race, and win.

Suddenly, one boy stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled, and began to cry. The other eight heard the boy cry. They slowed down and looked back. Then they all turned around and went back. Every one of them. One girl with Down's syndrome bent down and kissed him and said, "This will make it better." Then all nine linked arms and walked together to the finish line. The stadium exploded, with cheering continuing for several minutes. Why?

Because deep down we know one thing: Life is about more than winning. What truly matters in this life is helping others win, even if it means slowing down or changing course. The Bible addresses this in Galatians 6:

Galatians 6:1-2 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

We should run our race of faith well, but we are also to help others finish well. God has given each of us a place on the team where we can use our own unique gifts to serve together alongside our team-mates. We should use our gifts to encourage others to pursue similar goals of godliness and purity.

So who around you needs some kindness today? Who can you reach out to with hope and encouragement? Whether on your team or not, there are many around you today looking for someone to reach out to them with the kindness and love of Christ.