

# YOU GOTTA DO WHAT YOU GOTTA DO

Today the coach will cut one more person from the basketball team—and it will be Ron, Chris, or Jim. All three of them have equal ability, but Ron and Chris have played basketball together all through junior high and high school. And now that they're seniors, they think they deserve to play together—and they've worked out a little scheme to ensure it will happen. Today during scrimmage they'll make Jim look as bad as they can without being too obvious.

During that afternoon's scrimmage, Ron sees that Jim is open—but passes instead to Chris. When either Ron or Chris do pass to Jim, they aim low or a little to the left or right to confuse him. Or they pass to Jim when he's not expecting a pass. In the final seconds of the scrimmage, Jim is open for an easy basket—but instead Ron drives towards the basket, passes to Chris at the last possible second, and Chris scores the winning basket. Ron and Chris are the standouts for the day. The next day Jim is cut.

Ron and Chris don't see anything wrong with what they did. Making the team was important. Jim had plenty of opportunities to make himself look good, and it's not Ron and Chris's fault if he didn't take advantage of them. Jim, a Christian, found out from a friend what Ron and Chris did. But what if anything should Jim do?



**"I don't see** why any parent would encourage their child to play football or basketball. The coaches treat players like a piece of meat and talk to them like they're garbage. It's rare to find a coach who doesn't use abusive language when yelling at their own players. Sports are no longer good for our culture. They're a violent, vicious abuse of human beings."

Former football player

## The Stats

The following percentages of baby boomer teachers say their students have more of these traits in school than they did:

- Materialism—76%
- Anger—51%
- Competitiveness—48%
- Recklessness—41%

USA Today  
February 4, 1997

## By the Book...

In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.

Ephesians 4:26-27

1. How would you describe Ron and Chris's conspiracy? Wrong or right? Smart or unsmart? Competitive? Normal? Unchristian? Simple survival?



2. What are Jim's options?

3. What about the Scripture that says, "If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also" (Matthew 5:39) or "I tell you, love your enemies" (Matthew 5:44)?

4. Do you agree with Ron and Chris that whatever Ron and Chris do, Jim has to make the team on his own?

5. What would you have done in Jim's situation?