Chess is a game of competition and there are three possible results:

You will **win,** (1 point)

You will **lose,** (0 points)

or you will **draw,** (tie: ½ point)

If one player is more talented, gifted, or experienced, than his opponent, two things will often happen:

1. The "BETTER" player will not feel as "challenged" by the competition and may stop playing with the "weaker" opponent.

or

2) The "WEAKER" opponent may retreat and give up playing the game.

What a sad day it is when we force our brothers and sisters to turn away, give up, or stumble along the way.

*Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.* (Romans 14:13)

*Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

(Colossians 3:18)

We need to work together to help one another.

*The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.*

(1 Corinthians 12:12-13)

We are told we need to:

*Encourage one another and build each other up.*

(1 Thessalonians 5:11)

It is for certain you cannot win if you are not playing.

**Keep playing the game, God never gives up!**

Some chess teachers believe you cannot get to the end without first starting at the beginning and working through it.

However, if you do not know what you are looking for at the 'END', how can you know if you have ever found it?

***What Chess Teaches:***

Winning at anything can be a nice feeling. Given our human nature, winning provides some small sense that we have accomplished something and have been 'successful'. But why should we limit ourselves and think on such a small scale since Jesus says:

*I have come that they may have life, and have it to the fullest*.

(John 10:10)

Trusting Jesus and His Word is so much better than anything we could ever dream of doing on our own.

Winners learn how to get along with others.

*Live in peace* (Hebrews 12:14)

Winners share what they know with others.

Priscilla and Aquila saw Apollos preach and could see he was very gifted but needed more instruction. They shared with Apollos and he went out and proved that Jesus was the Christ. (Acts 18:24-28)

We can share the truth of Jesus as the Bible says

*“…but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.*

*And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations.”* (Matthew 24:13-14)

Winners learn from their mistakes and losses.

Adversity and problems can help us grow and develop our faith.

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.* (James 1:2-4)

*We know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope; and hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.* (Romans 5:3-5)

**We all *W. I. N.* when we….**

**W**itness for Christ

*And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord, Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.* (Colossians 3:17)

*Make a difference in Life* (Matthew 5:13)

*Remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.*

(James 5:20)

*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.* (Proverbs 11:30)

**I**nspire

Lead by example. Inspire others by your actions.

*Let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.* (Matthew 5:16)

**N**urture

Young hearts and minds need care to develop.

*Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.* (Matthew 19:14)

**The Bible gives us this instruction:**

*Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible: To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the Gospel; that I may share in its blessings. Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.* (1 Corinthians 9:19-27)

Dear Father, let me be a bold witness O Lord and help my brother along the path of life.

Help me remember this is just a time where I am learning more of your ways –

help me along the way.

Thank you Jesus.

***Chess should be non-violent:***

Students may talk of 'KILLING' the pieces.

In reality, the pieces are CAPTURED and removed from the board.

*Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.* (Matthew 5:44)

After the game is over be kind toward one another.

*But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment.* (Matthew 5:22**)**

Do not be mad at the other player if you lose.

*Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the sons of God.* (Matthew 5:9)

Do not start arguments or raise your voice over the game.

*Keep on loving each other as brothers.* (Hebrews 13:1)

**There is more to life than the outcome of the game.**

**Always look forward to another day.**

The King is always treated with dignity,

respect, and honor at all times.

While other pieces may be captured and removed from the board,

***THE KING IS NEVER REMOVED FROM THE BOARD***.

**Likewise, God, our Lord, is always present in our lives.**

**Pray you will have the strength to 'stay in the game'.**

**Look for ways to be strong and continue no matter what the situation.**

**God is my strength and my help. Amen.**