

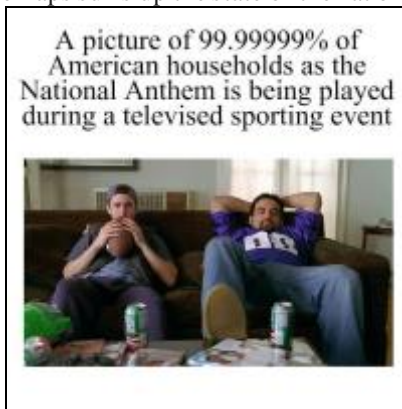
the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

Whether you agree with him or not, one thing is for certain: Colin Kaepernick’s silent protest of the U.S. national anthem (as a way to protest the inequality and discrimination he believes is oppressing certain groups) is causing people to talk, and not just about the San Francisco 49ers quarterback. Some of the terms often heard in the Internet news world this past week were “white privilege,” “social justice,” and “unpatriotic.”

While the PR storm swirls around the discussion of the rightness or wrongness of this football player’s actions, some are asking bigger questions about the praise and persecution handed out to professional sports players in general, and whether or not equal actions are given equal consideration. One promising swimmer receives a few months in jail after committing a violent sex crime, another medal-winning swimmer is suspended 12 months for an act which was at best, irresponsible (and at worst, vandalism and intimidation). Then again, some NFL players have been suspended only one game for domestic violence, while a top female soccer player is suspended for 6 months for a series of infringements ranging from an arrest for domestic violence to calling her opponents names.

Surely, we can all agree that we are guilty of inconsistency (dare we say hypocrisy?) when it comes to who we decide to root for or rail against, or how we act on the things that we say are important. A meme making the rounds on Facebook perhaps sums up the state of the national anthem controversy the best:



As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the above article to read. Then discuss it in this way:

What does the term *white privilege* mean? Explain.

What do you think about the football player’s protest? Does it make sense to you? Do you think it is accomplishing his goal? What do you think the meme that is shown is trying to say?

In the U.S.A., citizens are taught that everyone is equal under the law. Do you think this is true or not? What does your experience tell you?

Examples of hypocrisy today are numerous. Even Peter, a leader in the early church, fell prey to it. In relating that story, Paul tells us that hypocrisy has three negative consequences.