

Competition

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Ice Breaker

- Do you like competition? Why? If not, why?

Games/Sports

- Some competition occurs in casual games/sports such as ForNight, Ping Pong, Basket Ball, Foot Ball, Bridge, Chess and Go.

Ice Breaker

- What games/sports do you like? Why?

Formal Competition

- Find a job, apply for a college, figure out your career path, buying health insurance, marriage, participate in an auction and invest in the stock market etc.

Ice Breaker

- Do your parents/paster/teachers/counselors give you guidance for these formal competitions? How?

What is competition?

- A process involving 2 or more people having continuous interactions where each participant is trying to maximize his/hers personal benefits which is a function of his/her and the opponents' actions.

Example:Basket Ball

- There are 2 teams, each consists of multiple players.
- Each player tries to help his/her team score more points. The winning team would receive some reward which is shared among its members.
- How many points a team scores depends on its team members' actions and the actions of the members of the opponent team.

Example: College Application

- All applicants are players in the game. Each of them tries to impress the admission commission about his/hers qualification. But, there is a limit of how many students the school would admit a year.
- The chances of being admitted depends on how much effort the student put in, as well as, how much others do.
- The rewards could include a better future and scholarships.

Example: Marriage

- Players are young single boys and girls.
- Each player tries to make himself/herself more attractive to the opposite sex.
- Each player would try to date the opposite sex player most attractive to him/her.
- Who a player dates depends on the his/her characteristics and how much effort he/she puts in; as well as, what the other players do.

Zero-Sum

- A player's gain is other players' loss.

Competitive

- Each player strives to maximize his/her gain.

Non-competitive

- Players collude to achieve the highest total gain, then, divide up the gains among themselves.

Winning

- Notice that there is no notion of Winning. Each player simply tries to maximize gains.

Equilibrium

- This when each player reaches maximum gain given what others do.

Equilibrium Example

- In the marriage competition, each player is matched with the opposite sex player that is most attractive to him/her.

Equilibrium Example

- In college application, an equilibrium could be that each school admits the students that it feels the most likely to benefit from its programs. Each student applies for schools that best fit his/her career goals. For a school, not all applicants would be admitted and those admitted may not attend while those rejected may be admitted by other schools.

Equilibrium Example

- In the health insurance market, an equilibrium could be that each insurance company under writes applicants with similar probability of getting sick. Different insurers under writes different risk groups.

Equilibrium Example

- In a ping pong game, an equilibrium could be each player employing a strategy consisting of applying different hitting styles probabilistically depending on what the opponent does. The players will have different chances of scoring more and each one of them got a lot of fun out of the game.

Goal of a Competition

- Reach an equilibrium.

Process of reaching an Equilibrium

- It's an iterative try-and-error process guided by God's will.

Bible Versus

1. Ecclesiastes 4:4-6 Then I observed that most **people are motivated to success because they envy their neighbors**. But this, too, is meaningless—like chasing the wind. “Fools fold their idle hands, leading them to ruin.” And yet, “Better to have one handful with quietness than two handfuls with hard work and chasing the wind.”
2. Galatians 6:4 Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else.

Bible Verses

3. Luke 16:15 And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. **For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.**

4. Philippians 2:3-4 **Do nothing out of rivalry or conceit**, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Bible Verses

5. Galatians 5:19-20 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions.

6. Romans 12:2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.



Bible Verses

7. James 3:14-15 But **if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth** with boasting and lying. For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic.

8. Galatians 5:24-26 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. **Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.**

9. Proverbs 14:30 A heart at peace gives life to the body, but **envy rots the bones.**

Bible Verses

10. 1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or **whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.**

11. Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men

12. Ephesians 6:7 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people.

Conclusion

- Competition is not about winning.
- Competition is the process for people to reach their places God planned for them, an equilibrium.
- The process of reaching an equilibrium could be stressful but we could always rely on God to guide us.

Application

- What would you do when you feel stress caused by competition?