



"And now I am no more in the world,  
but these are in the world..." (John 17:11).

Use this recent news story to help your students see the relevance  
of this week's lesson from the Standard Lesson Commentary®  
or Standard Lesson Quarterly®.

### **CORRUPTION AT THE TOP**

Last week, the U.S. government indicted fourteen officials of FIFA—the *Fédération Internationale de Football Association*—in the wake of a scandal. Members of FIFA's executive committee were charged with taking as much as \$10 million in bribes. Local government officials purportedly offered the payoffs to influence the decision as to which cities would be chosen to host the World Cup. The indictments brought angry reactions against America from around the world. Soccer fans mocked the U.S. as being sanctimonious and naïve. Such influence peddling, they claimed, was "how business is done in the rest of the world."

### **JUDGMENT FROM ON HIGH**

The world doesn't like to acknowledge that "the way things are done" is often morally wrong. If the charges against FIFA officials are true, the sport of soccer has been given a black eye. While athletes are supposed to play by the rules, those who govern the sport can apparently make up their own rules as they go. However, the prophet Amos makes it clear that God cares deeply about how we live our lives.

1. Why should we care what goes on in the world of international soccer? Regardless of the sport, how are others affected when participants at any level do not follow the rules?
2. How do people excuse their failure to live by God's ethical standards?
3. Describe a situation you know of in which someone is not exhibiting ethical behavior. What are some possible responses in such a case?
4. What might be the consequences of each response? Consider consequences for someone pointing out the problem as well as consequences for innocent parties if the unethical behavior is *not* exposed.

—Charles R. Boatman

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