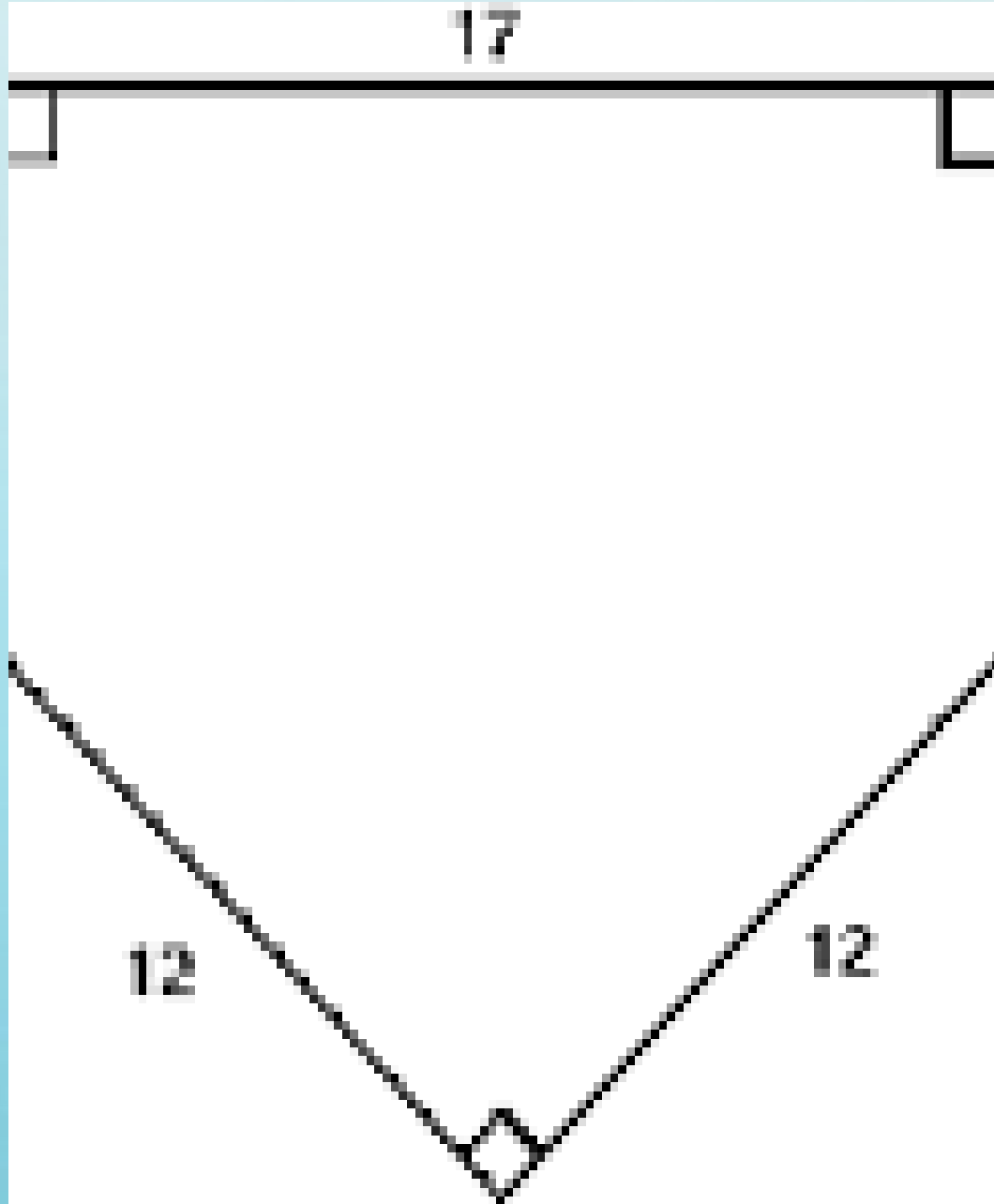




Widen the Plate?

Should we just change the rules?



Home Plate – 17”



In T-Ball
Home Plate – 17”



In Little League
Home Plate – 17”



In High School
Home Plate – 17”



In College
Home Plate – 17”



In Major Leagues
Home Plate – 17”

Baseball has a Standard size for home plate

- At every level the home plate is 17” wide.
- But there are some pitchers that have a difficult time getting the ball over the plate for a strike.
- Talk with the coach. “If you could widen the plate to 22” or 24” I could throw more strikes.”
- Coach – “If you can’t get the ball over the plate, I will put in another pitcher.
- MESSAGE – YOU MUST CONFORM TO THE RULES – NOT CHANGE THEM.

LEARN THESE IMPORTANT LESSONS

- **There are rules (standards).**
- **We must accept the standards, live by the rules.**
- **Society can not change the rules to fit you.**
- **You must change your life to fit the rules.**

LEARN THESE IMPORTANT LESSONS

- **There are rules in America.**
- **There are rules in the state of Tennessee.**
- **There are rules in the city and county.**
- **There are rules for our spiritual life.**

LEARN THESE IMPORTANT LESSONS

- School – There are rules – grades, dress code
- To attend school – you must live by the rules
- Do not try to “widen the plate”

LEARN THESE IMPORTANT LESSONS

- School – There are rules – grades, dress code
- To attend school – you must live by the rules
- Do not try to “widen the plate”
- Work – There is a rule book (manual)
- To work there – you must follow the rules
- Do not try to “widen the plate”

LEARN THESE IMPORTANT LESSONS

- Sports – There are rule books with detailed rules, standards
- To play that sport – you must live by the rules
- Do not try to “widen the plate”

LEARN THESE IMPORTANT LESSONS

- Sports – There are rule books with detailed rules, standards
- To play that sport – you must live by the rules
- Do not try to “widen the plate”
- God – There is a rule book (the Bible)
- To please God – live by the rules
- Do not try to change the rules

APPLICATIONS

- **Church is a denomination**
 - Many are trying to make the Lords' church just another denomination.
 - **1 Corinthians 12:20** But now indeed *there are* many members, yet one body.
 - **Ephesians 4:4** *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling
- **Don't widen the plate**

APPLICATIONS

- **Church is a denomination**
 - **1 Corinthians 12:25** that there should be no schism in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another.
 - **Ephesians 2:16** and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.
- **Don't widen the plate**

APPLICATIONS

- **Instrumental Music**
 - God has rules – sing and make melody
 - Ephesians 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord
 - Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
- **Don't widen the plate**

APPLICATIONS

- **Communion – 1st Day of the Week**
 - God has rules – Lord’s Day (1st day of the week)
 - Not on Saturday; Not on Thursday
 - Not just on special holidays
 - Acts 20:7 Now on the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.
- **Don’t widen the plate**

APPLICATIONS

- **Women preachers / elders**
 - God has rules – about the role of women in church
 - **1 Timothy 2:11-12** ¹¹ Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. ¹² And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.
- **Don't widen the plate**

Don't Widen the Plate

- God has rules to become a Christian
 - Believe in Jesus
 - Turn from a life of sin
 - Be baptized for forgiveness of sins
- There are rules for when we sin
 - Repent of the sin
 - Pray for forgiveness