

Worldliness

Gambling

Introduction

1. **Gambling in America is bigger than it has ever been.**
 - A. **Based on a “Gambling Impact and Behavior Study”, report to the National Council on Problem Gambling in 2012, it was determined:**
 - 1) **That 85% of adults in the U. S. have gambled.**
 - 2) **Betting, Casinos and Lotteries are the most common forms of gambling. 52% of Americans have played the lottery.**
 - 3) **More than 26% of Americans over age 21 have gambled in a casino.**
 - 4) **Americans lost more than \$117 billion dollars.**
 - 5) **Over 5 million Americans are pathological gamblers.**
 - **Most common in young people.**
 - 6) **Approximately one in five pathological gamblers attempts suicide, a rate higher than that for any other addictive disorder.**
 - 7) **From 1894 to 1963 there was no legalized gambling in any state. Now there is legalized gambling of some form in 48 states (Hawaii and Utah) - (Study World article).**

2. Gambling takes on different forms.

A. Cards (Poker)

B. Horse Racing

C. Dog Racing

D. Lottery

1) A lottery is considered a form of gambling because the value of the prize is greater than the cost of the ticket, and no skill is involved in winning.

E. Bingo

F. Raffle Tickets

G. Slot Machines

H. Roulette

I. Pitching or Matching Coins

J. Betting on Ball Games

3. Can gambling be justified by the Christian? Is gambling a sin? Can we prove it is a sin by God's rule and principle?

A. This morning we will look at "gambling" and strive to answer these questions.

Clearly Defining Gambling

1. What gambling is:

- A. **“Wagering of money or other items of value on an uncertain event that is dependent either wholly on chance, as in roulette, or partly on chance and partly on skill, as in certain card games and in sporting contests.” (Microsoft Encarta Online Encyclopedia 2001)**
- B. **“To play at any game of chance for stakes ... to stake or risk money, or anything of value, on the outcome of something involving chance...bet; wager” (Random House College Dictionary)**
- C. **Gambling therefore, is a stake involved whereby one stands to gain at the loss of others, depending upon the outcome of some arbitrarily element of chance.**

2. What gambling is not:

- A. **Just taking a risk.**
- B. **Taking the normal and customary risks of business or life (farming, driving a car, etc.).**
 - 1) **In gambling one stands to gain at the loss of others. The deciding factor is some arbitrarily selected chance.**
 - 2) **Example: In farming, profit is not sought at the loss of others and risk is not contrived.**
 - a. **Work, investment of time, knowledge, money and many other things go into the business of farming.**
 - b. **The fact that unknown variables exist (risk is involved) does not by itself constitute gambling.**

Sinful Problems of Gambling

1. The essential motive for gambling is covetousness (Greed).

A. Covet – “to fix passion upon.”

1) The greedy person is an idolater.

Ephesians 5:5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Colossians 3:5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

B. The love of money is the root of gambling.

1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

C. What is the remedy?

Colossians 3:1-4

2. It violates the principle of honest labor.

A. One is supposed to earn his income from his own work.

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

2 Thessalonians 3:10-12

1) Shuns work for change, accepts laziness over industry.

2) Perpetuates the “get something for nothing” mentality.

3) Gambles away money and evades responsibility to provide for oneself and his family.

Matthew 7:12 Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

3. Gambling is accompanied by other evils.

Matthew 7:16 You will know them by their fruits....

A. Cannot produce good things. The fruit of gambling includes:

- 1) Greed, domestic violence, child abuse, divorce, theft, fraud, organized crime, prostitution, murder, drinking, suicide.**

B. Gambling destroys confidence, credibility, reliability and security between spouses and other family members.

Proverbs 15:16 Better is a little with the fear of the LORD, Than great treasure with trouble.

4. Gambling does NOT promote godliness.

A. Can the following things be said of gambling?

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — **meditate on these things.**

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 Test all things; hold fast what is good. **Abstain from every form of evil.**

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, **that they may see your good works** and glorify your Father in heaven.

James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, **nor to trust in uncertain riches** but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, **that they be rich in good works**, ready to give, willing to share, **storing up for themselves a good foundation** for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

5. Gambling is deceptive.

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

- A. Gambling consumes innocent souls.**
- B. A constant appeal to raw greed.**
- C. A carefully crafted fantasy of getting rich quick.**
- D. The deception that winning is easy and likely.**
- E. The trap of devastating addiction.**
- F. The victimization of the poor by gambling entrepreneurs.**

Proverbs 22:16 He who oppresses the poor to increase his riches, And he who gives to the rich, will surely come to poverty.

- G. Offering success and freedom, gambling delivers sorrow and bondage!**

2 Peter 2:19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves **are slaves of corruption**; **for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.**

Conclusion

- 1. Gambling is a product of worldliness, an effort to lay up treasure on this earth.**
- 2. It is a deceiver, a mocker and a destroyer (lives, families, souls).**
- 3. The Christian must put to death a heart of covetousness and abstain from every form of greediness – including gambling.**
- 4. I don't believe any of us could picture Jesus gambling.**
- 5. Let us learn to be content with our life, while striving toward heaven!**

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conduct **be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have.** For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Philippians 3:12 Pressing Toward the Goal Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on , **that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.**

