

WHAT ABOUT GAMBLING ?

Int.

1. Aim: To show that the practice of gambling is in violation of Bible principles and therefore not an activity for Christians.

2. Problem of gambling is quite old

a. I sa. 65:11-12 ASV But ye that forsake Jehovah, that forget my holy mountain, that prepare a **table for Fortune**, and that fill up mingled wine unto Destiny; 12 I will destine you to the sword, and ye shall all bow down to the slaughter; because when I called, ye did not answer; when I spake, ye did not hear; but ye did that which was evil in mine eyes, and chose that wherein I delighted not.

(1) Israelites were in Babylonian Captivity

(2) God of Good - Luck

(3) They forsake Jehovah

b. Time of Homer the Greeks had dice - made from the knuckle bones of sheep, goats and calves.

c. A gambling board was discovered in Crete that dates back to 1800-1900 B.C. In Babylon headless arrows were used for making wagers. Children in Rome played "heads or tails" with coins.

3. Casting lots is not a form of gambling

a. Often used in O.T. and N.T.

(1) Assignment of tribal land - Num. 26:55 (ASV) Not withstanding, the land shall be divided by lot: according to the names of the tribes of their fathers they shall inherit.

(2) Rotation of office - 1 Chron. 24:5

(3) I identify a law-offender - Jonah 1:7

(4) Select apostle - Acts 1:26 (ASV) And they gave lots for them; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

b. Method by which God made the choice - Prov. 16:33 (ASV) The lot is cast into the lap; But the whole disposing thereof is of Jehovah.

c. Casting of lots as it was described in the Bible is not gambling !

4. What is gambling? Why is it wrong? Questions people have asked about gambling?

Discussion

I. WHAT IS GAMBLING ?

A. Definition

1. **Gamble** (Web. 7th Ed. P. 343)
 - a. To play a game for money or other stakes
 - b. Gaming or play for money, the betting on the results of a game; the playing in a game of chance or skill for stakes."
2. **Bet** (Web. P. 81) "Something that is laid, staked or pledged typically between two parties on the outcome of a contest or any contingent issue.
3. **Wager** (Web. P. 1,000) "Something risked on an uncertain event - something on which bets are laid, gamble."
4. **Lottery** (Web. P. 500)
 - a. A drawing of lots in which prizes are distributed to the winners among persons buying a chance
 - b. "A method of selling numbered tickets and awarding prizes to the holders of certain numbers drawn by lot". (New American Web. Dict. P. 207)

5. Raffle

- a. A lottery in which the prize is won by one of numerous persons buying chances.
(Web. P. 706)
- b. A lottery to dispose of one prize, usually merchandise. (Web. New American Dictionary p. 279)

B. Ways or methods of gambling

1. Shooting dice

- a. Money is risked on the accidental appearing of certain numbers on the dice.
- b. Defined by the word gamble.

2. Poker

- a. Money is put up and won on the appearance of important cards.
- b. Gambling

3. Betting on horses

- a. Put money on a certain horse to win - Pari-mutal betting
- b. Winners get money - Gambling

4. Bingo - played for money

- a. Amount does not matter - to play a game for money or other stakes
- b. State legislatures recognize it and label it as "charitable gambling"

5. Raffle

- a. Article is put up - people buy a chance - drawing and one person wins the prize
- b. Sometimes done through the mail - gambling

6. Lotteries

7. Miscellaneous

- a. Pool - Cake walks - Fair booths - many gambling games
- b. Legalized gambling in several states - lotteries, casino gambling
- c. Ball games - sporting activities

C. Places of Gambling

- 1. In the 1970's the main places would have been in Las Vegas and race tracks.
- 2. In 2006 you can still gamble at those places but you now have lotteries, casinos, and internet gambling.

II. WHY GAMBLING IS WRONG

A. Disregards the command to work for all we have

- 1. Gen. 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou [art], and unto dust shalt thou return.
- 2. Eph. 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with [his] hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.
 - a. God expects us to work for everything we have
 - b. The gambler expects to get all he has from "good luck" or "chance"
 - c. Gambling promotes laziness and quenches the desire for honest work
 - d. 2 Thes. 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. - *** God didn't promise any loaves to the loafers

- e. 1 Thes. 4:11-12 And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more; 11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

B. It is actually stealing

1. Rom. 13:9 "thou shalt not steal" - 1 Cor. 6:10
2. If a man meets another man in a dark alley and takes his money we call that robbery.
3. If 4 men gather around a table and agree to take each other's money, depending upon the roll of dice or the appearance of a certain set of cards, then we call that gambling.
4. The only difference is that in the first case there was 1 robber and in the second case there was 4. One used a gun, the other used cards or dice.
5. 2 Cor. 8:21 Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

C. It violates the golden rule

1. Matt. 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.
 - a. We paraphrase it to read: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."
 - b. The gamblers version of the golden rule is: "He who owns the gold, rules."

2. We are commanded to love our neighbors
 - a. Matt. 22:39 And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
 - b. The promoters of the gambling business have their own version of the "Law of Love." It goes like this: "Love money with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love money as yourself."
 - c. Rom. 13:10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love [is] the fulfilling of the law.
3. How long could a gambler survive if he were guided by such principles ?
4. When you gamble, you are trying to take money from another person. This is just the opposite of the golden rule.

D. Gambling is habit-forming - addictive

1. John 8:34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the **servant of sin.**
2. Many millions of compulsive gamblers
 - a. There is something about gambling that tends toward addiction
 - b. The winner is eager for larger wins, the loser wants to regain his loses.
 - c. It becomes addictive and people often lose everything they own.
 - d. Illustration: The winners are still losers
3. There is an organization called G.A. [Gambler's Anonymous] to help those who are addicted to gambling
 - a. They have found that the first bet is the one to avoid
 - b. Ga. 5:23 - Temperance - self control

E. Gambling is covetousness

1. Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.
 - a. Covetousness - excessive desire
 - b. Gambling is a form of covetousness - it seeks to obtain money quickly, cheaply, and without honest labor in exchange for income.
 - c. Col. 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

2. Prov. 15:27 He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.
 - a. HOW DO YOU SPELL LOTTERY---G.R.E.E.D.
 - b. No matter how you rationalize it, the goal of playing the lottery is to attain a mass of wealth. The goal is GREED. There is no other way around it.
 - c. 1 Tim. 6:10 (NKJV) 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.
 - d. Illustration: Woman killed her baby to collect insurance money for gambling debts.

III. QUESTIONS ABOUT GAMBLING

A. Many try to justify gambling by raising some questions which they feel justifies gambling !

1. Are we not taking a risk or gambling when we get in our car and drive to worship?
2. Isn't a farmer who plants a crop taking a risk that it will grow and he will get a profit ?
3. Isn't insurance just a big gamble?
4. What about investments? Are you just taking a gamble that you'll make a profit?

B. ANSWERS

1. There is risk involved in getting in a car - but that is not gambling! It does not involve a desire on our part to take from others. This is not in the definition!
2. The farmer is not trying to get something for nothing or by mere chance. He is working, following God's plan to produce a crop. Gen. 8:22 **While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.** Farming is honest, hard work!
3. Insurance is not gambling! We are merely spreading our risks of sickness or death or loss. The risk of sickness or death or loss is already present. We are merely helping to pay the cost.
4. Stock investment is loaning of our money for interest.
 - a. He is getting something for the use of his property or possessions
 - b. Jesus taught this in the parable of the talents - Matt. 25:27 **Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and [then] at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.**

C. What about gambling for charitable purposes ? Or for a worthy purpose? School or church ?

1. It is still wrong !
2. Taking the proceeds for a worthy cause does not make it right to steal !
3. Rom. 3:8 And not [rather], (as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,) Let us do evil, that good may come? whose damnation is just.
4. Raising money in wrong ways, even for right works, cannot ever be right.
 - a. Right is not promoted by wrongdoing
 - b. We cannot be right by doing wrong!
 - c. The end does not justify the means. The means should be just as honorable as the end proposed.
 - d. Could a person lie if his lie brought in large sums of money and he gave 50 % of the intake to the church or a charity? Would the end justify the means?

Conclusion

1. Gambling is a practice that is destructive, habit forming and sinful.
2. The Christian must make sure his conduct is above reproach - 1 Thes. 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.
3. Would be good to hear on TV: "Tonight for a change we are announcing the losers in the State Lottery! Here they are: The community, the Police, Stores, Churches, Truth, Justice, Mercy, Righteousness, love and the zillions of people who bought tickets!"
4. Gambling is not conducive to Godliness !!! Christians will stay away from any involvement in the evils of gambling !!!

Bibliography

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