



BIBLE TALK

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Question: Is it wrong to gamble?

Answer: It is my conviction that good judgment, common sense, and Godly principles are violated when one gambles. I would like to present some Biblical principles that will help you to understand and appreciate this conclusion.

First of all, it is important to know what constitutes gambling. Webster defines gambling: “to play a game of chance for money or other stakes,” “to wager money or other stakes on uncertain outcomes,” “to expose something of value to risk or hazard in the advantage of gain.” A simple definition of gambling would be, desiring the possession or possessions of another (prize), the gambler creates a risk (that of losing his own possession) in an attempt through chance to gain possessions or possessions of another, with nothing given in exchange.

Gambling, therefore, takes on many forms: card games, dice, numbers, betting on elections, buying sweepstake tickets, betting on horse races, slot machines, betting on sporting events/pools, punch boards, bingo (for money or prizes), buying tickets in a church or other raffles, etc.

It should be noted that gambling is not defined by the amount you are risking or the use made for the earnings. Using proceeds for charity, does not make it legal or spiritually acceptable. The Christian is a new man in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17); he is not to be conformed to the world (Rom. 12:1-2), and is to abstain from the very appearance of evil (1 Thess. 5:22). Jesus taught that you can know a tree by its fruit (Matt. 7:15-20). Too often gambling becomes nothing more than robbing family and God of what is needful for them and leaves the gambler with an irresistible addiction!

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