

Wrong? OR Right Gambling:

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Though there is no passage in Scripture that states "Thou shalt not gamble," the Bible is not a book that contains only "thou shalt" and "thou shalt not's." If God had dealt with everything in life by direct commands, we could not haul the Scriptures around. The Bible has many direct commands, but it also has many divinely given principles upon which we are to base our walk of life. Gambling violates several of these Biblical principles and is therefore sinful.

Gambling violates the principle of stewardship. There are many passages that clearly teach that we are to be good stewards of all that the Lord has given us (cf. 1Cor. 4:2; Lk. 12:42ff). The Scriptures teach our possessions come from the Father in heaven and that everything ultimately belongs to Him (Ps. 50:10-12). When one squanders his money through gambling, he actually has not squandered what is his but has squandered that of which God has made him a steward. Whatever God blesses us with we must use wisely to His glory. One cannot gamble and be a good steward of the things with which he has been blessed.

Gambling is sinful because it is exploitative of others. Jesus declared, "Therefore, however you want people to treat you so treat them for this is the Law and the Prophets" (Matt. 7:12). He also said, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:39; cf. Rom. 13:10). In gambling, the object is to try to take advantage of the other party-- to beat them out of profit. One cannot gamble and follow the teaching of Christ.

The work ethic taught in the Scripture is contradicted by

gambling. The Word of God teaches that men are to work for the earnings they receive. "For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat" (2Thess. 3:10; also see Gen. 1:19). The attitude behind gambling is to get rich quick and easy at someone else's expense. This attitude does not follow the teaching of the Scriptures.

Lack of self-control is one of the results of gambling, as it is addictive. The gambler always looks for the big win "just one more time." The Lord requires moderation and self-control in all things. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law" (Gal. 5:22-23; also see 2Pet.1:5-11).

Gambling is sinful because it is a form of covetousness. The word "covet" means, "eager to have more, i.e. to have what belongs to others; hence, greedy of gain." Regardless of how large or small the stakes are, covetousness is the basis of gambling. "Therefore, put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience" (Col. 3:5-6). Jesus said, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions (Lk. 12:15).

Do not be deceived, gambling violates several principles of God's word and is therefore sinful.

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