

GAMBLING THE ODDS ARE AGAINST YOU

INTRODUCTION:

More and more we are seeing a dramatic increase in the availability of gambling - whether it be in Las Vegas or in the state of Kentucky.

Many Christians contend that since the Bible does not specifically deal with the subject of gambling, and there is no direction concerning this issue. While this is not directly dealt with in the Bible there are many principles that show if you gamble the odds are against you. In fact, gambling affects our view of God, others and ourselves.

I. GET RICH QUICK SHEMES ARE A HOAX

- A. They Bring Poverty, Not Wealth - *Proverbs 28:22; Proverbs 22:16*
- B. Gambling Undermines Our Work Ethic - *Genesis 2:15, 3:19; Exodus 20:9*
 - 1. Work is a vital ingredient of the divinely created order.
 - 2. Gambling mocks the need for work by selling the illusion of gaining something for nothing.
 - 3. *II Thessalonians 3:10; Ephesians 4:28*

II. GAMBLING AFFECTS OUR VIEW OF GOD

- A. Gambling Indicates A Lack Of Trust In God's Ability To Provide
 - 1. *Matthew 6:25-34* - God who clothed the lilies of the field and who feeds the birds will provide for our physical needs as well
 - 2. *Luke 12:15* - "*Covetousness*" - An unlawful desire of the property of another; also a desire of gain or riches beyond what is necessary for our wants and is expressly called idolatry in *Colossians 3:5*.
 - 3. *Proverbs 15:27* - - "*greedy*" - - "*his own house*".
 - 4. *Hebrews 13:5; I Timothy 6:6-9; Philippians 4:19*
- B. Gambling Denies God's Law Of Order And His Care For Our Lives
 - 1. *Matthew 10:30; Proverbs 3:5-6*
 - 2. There is no place for the concept of luck in a Christian's life in which God is so intimately involved in that - "*even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.*" - *Proverbs 3:5-6*.

C. Gambling Violates The 10th Commandment - *Exodus 20:17*.

1. The activity of gambling is an act of coveting - an attempt to gain the resources of others without providing anything in return.
2. Gambling has also been described as a form of voluntary theft.

III. GAMBLING AFFECTS OUR VIEW OF OTHERS

A. Gambling Distorts Our Love For Our Neighbor – *Philippians 2:3-4*.

1. Scripture commands us to be concerned about the welfare of others.
2. On the other hand, gambling leaves a trail of human misery.

B. Gambling Exploits The Most Vulnerable Members Of Society - *Zechariah 7:9-10*.

1. We are instructed to look out for the needs of the poor, the widow, the orphan, and the oppressed of our society.
2. Gambling preys mercilessly on these groups.

C. Gambling Presents A Poor Witness To Others

1. *I Corinthians 10:31-33*
2. Scripture commands us to conduct ourselves in such a manner so that our actions direct nonbelievers to the Lord rather than causing them to stumble.

IV. GAMBLING AFFECTS OUR VIEW OF OURSELVES

A. Gambling Distorts Our View Of Stewardship

1. *Matthew 25:14-30*
2. Jesus tells us that we are going to be called to give an account for how we invest our treasures.

C. Gambling Centers Around Greed - *I Timothy 6:10*.

1. *"The love of money is the root of all evil"* and the love of money is at the very heart of gambling.
2. Gambling proponents often claim that gambling is simply another form of entertainment. - *Matthew 6:31*.

CONCLUSION:

God calls all of His children to a life that is above reproach in both our personal and public life:

1. *Ephesians 5:3* - Greed should not be named among the saints.
2. *I Thessalonians 5:22* - "Avoid appearances of evil".
3. *II Corinthians 5:7* - We walk by faith and not by sight.

Gambling is to be avoided at all costs at all times for all people.