

GAMBLING, THE LITTLE KNOWN SIN #3

What is so sinful about gambling?

3) Gambling is sinful because it violates the principle of proper stewardship. *“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful”* (1 Cor. 4:2). God has intrusted us with material possessions. They are not to be squandered and misused on our own lusts (cf. James 4:3). They are to be used to God’s glory. When a person takes that which should be used in support of their family and “throws it to the wind” on some get-rich-quick scheme, he is not providing for his own (1 Tim. 5:8).

4) Gambling is sinful because it sets an evil example. We are to *“recompense to no man evil for evil, provide things honest in the sight of all men”* (Rom. 12:17). Gambling is not an honest way of making a living. It is living off of the misfortune of others. *“In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you”* (Titus 2:7-8). *“Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God”* (3 John 1:11). We must set a good example for others. *“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity”* (1 Tim. 4:12). Jesus is our perfect example. *“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps”* (1 Peter 2:21). Can you imagine Jesus gambling?

5) Gambling is sinful because it joins you with evil companions. *“Be not deceived: evil communications (companionships) corrupt good manners”* (morals) (1 Cor. 15:33). Gambling is the very “stock and trade” of organized crime which preys on people who are willing to squander their living. Is this the company you desire to keep? When Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom it put him in very bad company and caused him great misery (cf. 2 Peter 2:6-8). *“Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil [men]”* (Prov. 4:14). *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap”* (Gal. 6:7).

6) Gambling is sinful because it leads to other sins. *“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived”* (2 Tim. 3:13). Gambling leads to dishonesty, immorality, theft, lying and fraud. Such crimes are much higher where gambling is present. A report from Reno, Nevada, stated that 75% of their embezzlement cases are related to gambling. *“The labour of the righteous [tendeth] to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin”* (Prov. 10:16). *“Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me...that they may add sin to sin”* (Isa. 30:1). *“And now they sin more and more...”* (Hosea 13:2). *“And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch”* (Luke 6:39)? Second Corinthians 8:21 says, *“Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.”*

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—Garland M. Robinson