

How Are Christians To View GAMBLING?

1 Tim. 4: 6-10

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1. Evil flourishes when good people say and do nothing to resist it. **(James 4:7)**.
2. A simple definition of gambling would be “desiring the possession of another the gambler creates a risk in an attempt, through chance, to gain the other person’s possession with nothing to give in exchange.”
3. To justify gambling, many people say things like “Life is a gamble...”
4. Wading through all our rationalizations and defenses, what does the Bible say about gambling?

I. Principles For Deciding Right and Wrong.

- A Evil cannot be clearly identified and defined apart from the Word of God.
 1. Without the Bible there is no acceptable standard for right and wrong.
 2. **(Rom. 1: 24-27; 1 Tim. 1: 3-11; Prov. 14: 34)**.
- B Gambling is one of those evils that has America in its grip.
 1. Gallup Polls offer insight into the habits and addictions of Americans.
- C Righteous people are to avoid that which is evil everywhere.
 1. **(Rom. 12: 9; I Thess. 5: 22)**.
 2. But, where does the Bible mention gambling or say it is sinful?

II. The Problem of Gambling and The Lottery.

- A The first appeal of gambling is greed. It is all about money, not morals.
 1. **(1 Tim. 6: 10-11)**.
 2. The word "covetousness" or "greed" actually means an eagerness to have more of what belongs to another person.
- B The second appeal of gambling is the hope of getting something without work.
- C Next, gambling robs people based on fictitious dreams of winning and living like a millionaire without having to work.

III. Our Responsibility To Express Our Conviction.

- A Gambling was outlawed in early America because of corruption.
 1. Gambling has not changed. It has never been the servant of man to bring prosperity; it has always been the false god that demanded all the gambler has, can borrow or steal.
 2. **(Eph. 5: 6-7)**.
 3. State sponsored lotteries depend on the losses of the gambler if they are to succeed.