

PLAIN SPEECH

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“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

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THE BIBLE DOESN'T SAY CHRISTIANS CAN'T GAMBLE

Time and again I have heard the above words uttered by those who claim to be Christians. I know of one man who sees no problem in playing Pinochle in hopes of pocketing a handful of cash. This same man used to be an “elder.” Sickening! Listen carefully: gambling – i.e. engaging in an activity wherein one stands to gain at the loss of others via an arbitrarily element of chance – is sinful.

Gambling Gives One An Avenue To Practice Dishonesty And Is Synonymous With Cheating

As one who wants something for nothing, the gambler usually is concerned with learning all the “tricks” he can and revels in fleecing novice players. Such is as ungodly as can be (**Romans 12:17; Philippians 4:8; 1 Peter 2:12**).

Gambling Is Stealing

Gambling is a form of taking what does not rightfully belong to you – even if it is some lousy husband’s weekly paycheck. Thus, gambling equates to stealing. The Bible says: **“Let him that stole steal no more...” (Ephesians 4:28)**. Can one walk in the light (**1 John 1:7**) and violate this passage? No way!

Gambling Is A Sin Because Coveting Is A Sin

Gambling is based on the evil desire to get money or goods which belong to someone else without giving fair value in exchange. Such is “covetousness.” Coveters shall not inherit the kingdom of God (**Romans 1:28-32; Ephesians 5:5**). Gamblers better not wager their souls on whether or not God meant what He said (**2 Timothy 3:16-17; Galatians 6:7**).

Gambling Is Contrary To The Biblical Concept Of Labor

Gambling encourages the “Free Lunch” philosophy. It also encourages laziness and indolence. God makes it plain in His Word that if you don’t work, you don’t eat (**2 Thessalonians 3:10, 11**). This certainly conflicts with the gambler’s ethic.

Gambling Is Contrary To The Biblical Concept Of Contentment

Paul wrote: **“But godliness with contentment is great gain... and having food and raiment let us be therewith content” (1 Timothy 6:6, 8)**. Gamblers are never content, even when they “win big.” They always want more, more, and more material riches. Do you want to go to judgment and explain why you wanted to horde riches (**Ecc. 5:13; 1 Tim. 6:10**)?

Gambling Violates The Biblical Means Of Transferring Money Or Property

In this regard, here is what is authorized: honest labor (**Ephesians 4:28**), exchange (**Matthew 13:44**), and receiving gifts (**Acts 4:32-37**). Which category does gambling fall into? Let’s remember **1 Corinthians 4:6**, people.

Gambling Violates The Principle Of Stewardship

Jehovah is the giver of all rightful material blessings (**1 Chronicles 29:11-12; 1 Timothy 6:17**). We are required to properly handle those blessings (**Luke 12:42; 1 Peter 4:10; 1 Corinthians 4:2**). Any honest person with their faculties knows that gambling is a waste of one’s material blessings. Note to gamblers: “Good Luck” explaining to God why you risked and/or squandered the things you were given over the toss of the dice or over the flip of a card.

Gambling Goes Hand In Hand With All Sorts Of Immorality

The capital of gambling in the United States proudly wears the title “Sin City” and those who go there subscribe to the popular notion, *“What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas!”* Why would any Christian want to go to such a city and rub elbows with those who mistakenly think they can hide their sins from God (**Proverbs 15:3**)? Other forms of immorality associated with gambling and gambling houses include: organized crime, prostitution, drunkenness, and drug use. Folks, if a Christian can gamble, then consistency demands that he can also sleep with the whore and snort cocaine. If not, why not? Last time I looked, Christians are to avoid all forms of immorality or suffer the penalty (**Ephesians 5:1-12**). This being true, how can one say gambling is acceptable?

Much more could be said: e.g. the fact that gambling is addictive (**Romans 6:6**), the fact that gambling violates **Matthew 7:12** and the fact that gambling has the very real potential to make one a hater of God (**Matthew 6:24**). If you gamble, you must quit or else lose your soul – even if you gain the whole world while upon the earth (**Matthew 16:26**).