





# GAMBLING

W H A T ' S T H E P R O B L E M ?

# GAMBLING DEFINED

- “play games of chance for money; bet” (New Oxford American Dictionary)
- “to stake or risk money, or anything of value, on the outcome of something involving chance” (dictionary.com)
- “gambling, the betting or staking of something of value, with consciousness of risk and hope of gain, on the outcome of a game, a contest, or an uncertain event whose result may be determined by chance or accident or have an unexpected result by reason of the bettor’s miscalculation.” (Encyclopedia Britannica)

# GAMBLING DEFINED

## Elements Included in Gambling

- An event or outcome that is uncertain and determined by chance.
- A staking of something upon the matter of chance with hope for gain.
- A winner that gains at the expense of the loser based upon the outcome by chance.

# DIVERSIONS FROM THE PROBLEM

## Efforts for Financial Increase

- *Gambling is not wrong because it constitutes an effort to make financial gain* – Luke 10:7; Proverbs 10:4-5; 13:11
- Three Methods of Transferring Money/Property:
  - Work – Luke 10:7
  - Exchange – James 4:13, 15
  - Gift – 1 Timothy 6:18; Numbers 27:1-11 (inheritance)

# DIVERSIONS FROM THE PROBLEM

## Taking Risk

- *Gambling is not wrong simply because it involves risk.*
- **Life** – **Ecclesiastes 9:11-12** – time and chance.
- **Farming** – **Genesis 8:22** – uncertainty to yield, but natural law.
- **Buying Insurance** – buying financial protection.
- **Investing** – **Matthew 25:27** – buying and selling of value, both stand to gain.

# DIVERSIONS FROM THE PROBLEM

## The Degree of Gambling

- *It is the principle of gambling that is wrong, not the amount* – 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22; 1 Peter 1:15-16

## Legality – Romans 13:1-2; Acts 5:29

- *A requirement by God must be met even if the government forbids it.*
- *A prohibition by God must be avoided even if the government requires it or allows it.*

# IMPLICIT EVIL - “AND THE LIKE”

The Bible doesn't say specifically, “Gambling is a sin,” so it is okay?

- Argument from ignorance/immaturity – **Hebrews 5:14**
- All things are to be tested by scriptural principles – **1 Thessalonians 5:19-22**



# IMPLICIT EVIL - “AND THE LIKE”

The Bible does not limit itself to explicit prohibition.

- Example – **Hebrews 7:12-14**
- There are many things the Bible does not explicitly state as being sinful that we know are sinful.
  - **Galatians 5:19-21** – *“and the like”*
  - **1 Thessalonians 5:22** – *“every form of evil”*
- ***It is a necessary conclusion that gambling is sinful.***

# WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

**It is Covetousness**

Ephesians 5:3, 5; 1 Timothy 6:9-10;  
Colossians 3:5; Luke 12:15

**It is Stealing by Consent**

Ephesians 4:28

**It is Destructive in Nature**

1 Timothy 6:9-10; Matthew 7:16-18

# WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

It Violates the Principle of Work Ethic

2 Thessalonians 3:6-12; 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

It Violates the Principle of Good Stewardship

Luke 16:9-13

It Violates the Principle of Love

Matthew 22:39; Luke 6:31; Romans 13:8-10



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