

# THE CHRISTIAN AND GAMBLING

Some Christians argue that gambling is not wrong because the Bible does not speak out against it specifically. But the question that must be asked is whether gambling – even gambling that has been brought into churches – is compatible with principles of Christianity.

**Is it right for the Christian to gamble? Is it only harmless recreation? Or is it part of the world Christians should avoid? 1Jo.2:15-16**

*Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.*

## IN ORDER TO ANSWER, ONE MUST FIRST DEFINE TERMS

### Christian

Disciple of Jesus, a child of God. (Learner and follower)

Worshiper of the God of heaven. (Giving glory to God and His ways)

One who dwells in Christ and Christ in him. (Close relationship where activities of one affects the other.)

One "so possessed of the mind of Christ, so as to resemble Him in thought, feeling and action." Gal.2:20

### Gambling

Defined: To play a game for money or stakes; to stake money or any other thing of value upon a certain event. Stake involved where one gains, another loses; chances arbitrarily determined.

Not to be confused with risk: in farming, driving, investing.

## GAMBLING DEFENDED

It is said to be harmless recreation.

It is considered a matter of moral indifference.

It is touted as a painless way to raise revenue.

It is claimed to be victimless: that people participate by mutual consent.

It is considered acceptable because Scripture doesn't specifically prohibit it.

## GAMBLING PUT TO THE TEST

Is it harmless recreation?

Is it a matter of moral indifference?

Is it a painless way to raise revenue?

Is it victimless?

Is it acceptable because Scripture doesn't specifically prohibit it?

Is gambling seen as a means to acquire quick, unearned wealth?

Is it a form of covetousness?

Is winning at gambling done at the expense of others.?

Does gambling run counter to "Golden Rule"?

Does gambling exhibit selfishness?

Does gambling enhance godliness?

Is gambling incompatible with godliness?

## **GOD-APPROVED MEANS OF GAINING**

Working: LABOR

*Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need. Eph.4:28*

Barter: EXCHANGE

*So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them food in exchange for the horses and the flocks and the herds and the donkeys; and he fed them with food in exchange for all their livestock that year. Gen.47:17*

Gifts: CHARITY

*"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!"  
Mat 7:11*

## **EFFECTS OF GAMBLING**

**Cruel hoax on poor and down-trodden.**

Hopes of winning at gambling to produce sudden relief is unrealistic. While such need to have hope, unrealistic hope only disappoints.

**Money diverted from needs of families.**

Statistics confirm that lower income people play lottery more.

**The distinction between honest and ill-gotten gain is blurred.**

**"Three persons share in \$100 million lottery winnings."** What you didn't hear was "The combined loss of countless persons was over \$100 million." Such a report would produce an outcry under different circumstances. From Las Vegas to Atlantic City, from horse racing to church bingo to the lottery, gambling has become legal and morally acceptable to many Americans.

*Admonition to all Christians: Draw near to God, not the world. Take the narrow way; avoid the broad path. Stand out from the crowd; don't be a part of it.*