

Morals & Ethics

Gambling

(Co 3:5)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Afternoon
 - a. What a wonderful meal prepared by so many.
 - b. God has blessed us truly this day with the opportunity to fellowship so long today.
2. Last week:
 - a. We finished up our lesson on "Social Drinking" showing that God has never approved of it or been accepting of it.
 - i. **Pr 23:31; Ep 5:18**
3. This afternoon:
 - a. We are going to continue our series of lessons on morals & ethics with "Gambling"
 - b. With the casino just up the road, and more popping up every day this is becoming a more and more needed topic of study.
4. Gambling:
 - a. This is one of the more misunderstood issues we will discuss as far as the definition goes.
 - i. Everybody knows what is meant by gambling in general but to specifically define it there are many alterations.
 - ii. For example...
 1. Gambling is playing a game for money.
 2. Gambling is taking a chance.
 3. Gambling is playing a game of chance for money.
 4. Gambling is...
 - b. Gambling's definition accurately should be...
 - i. Any act where money is exchanged through bet wherein one is intending/hoping to win the others money.

I. The History of Gambling

- A. This is not a "new" thing to come up over that last hundred years, it has been around centuries.
 1. Homer wrote of gambling in 850 B.C. in the Iliad & Odyssey.
 - i. He wrote of the knuckle bones of sheep being marked on four sides and rolled like dice.
 2. The Romans used race tracks where chariot races were held and bet on.
 - i. The gladiator battles and such were done with the same result.
 3. Gambling as far as Christianity is concerned, until recently, has been considered wrong.
 - i. Tertullian wrote in circa 200 A.D. "If you say that you are a Christian, when you are a dice player, you say what you are not, because you are a partaker of the world."

II. What Gambling Is Not

- A. It is not just "taking a chance"
 - 1. Notice what people do that is not gambling but is taking a chance.
 - i. Farming - Could be drought or flood.
 - ii. Driving - Could get in a wreck or not.
 - iii. Stock Market - Could make one money or lose money
 - a. There is an exchange of goods and ownership in a company which makes this different than gambling.
 - 2. Even God teaches that there is "chance" in the world.
 - i. **Ec 9:11** "I returned and saw under the sun that— The race is not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to men of understanding, Nor favor to men of skill; **But time and chance happen to them all.**"
- B. It is not the games themselves
 - 1. If you remove the betting you remove the gambling.
 - i. People can gamble on anything.
 - a. Example of gambling on "Candyland" game.
 - 2. Poker is not gambling w/o the money exchanged.
 - i. It might not be wise to play but it is not sinful "as a game only"

III. The Bible And Gambling

- A. Covetousness is a sin
 - 1. Is found in about 38 verses
 - i. **Co 3:5** "Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry."
 - ii. **Lk 12:15** "And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.""
 - 2. Covetousness is...
 - i. "to take advantage of someone, usually as the result of a motivation of greed—'to take advantage of, to exploit, exploitation.'" (Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). Vol. 1: Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament : Based on semantic domains (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition.) (757). New York: United Bible societies.)
 - ii. "'having more,' b. 'receiving more,' and c. 'wanting more,' with a reference to power etc. as well as property." (Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1995). Theological Dictionary of the New Testament (864). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.)
 - 3. Therefore covetousness is wanting what someone else has and doing what it takes to try and get it from that person or persons.

- B. Gambling is covetousness
1. When one gambles they are trying to win someone else's possessions.
 - i. There is no gambling if someone is not losing material possessions and someone else is gaining those possessions.
 - ii. This is covetousness at its core.
 2. Things people say...
 - i. "I was helping the economy by gambling" (Lottery)
 - ii. "You don't go gamble to make money just to have fun" (Casinos)
 - iii. "If I'm not taking from my families mouth it's not wrong"
 - iv. "It's just a game"
 3. Examining each statement biblically.
 - i. "I was helping the economy by gambling."
 - a. There is no economy ever found in secular writing that has benefitted from gambling.
 - b. There is no state that has benefitted from gambling.
 - ii. "You don't go gamble to make money just to have fun"
 - a. There is no doubt that you cannot make money ie make a healthy living gambling.
 1. Even if one wins a lot of money they go back to make more an I know of no gambler that has made more than they have lost. You just never hear about how much they lost.
 - b. Also how is having fun?
 1. You when you lose your money?
 2. You when you take someone else's?
 - iii. "If I'm not taking from my families mouth it's not wrong."
 - a. God expects us to be good stewards of His money.
 1. **I Pt 4:10** "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."
 2. **I Ch 29:14** "But who am I, and who are my people, That we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, And of Your own we have given You."
 - b. It is not being a good steward of His money to use it in such a way that has a negative return rate. That is just wasteful.
 - iv. "It's just a game."
 - a. With possessions being bet on it is not just a game but a sin.
 4. **NO ONE GAMBLES HOPING LOSE!!!!**
 - i. This deems gambling covetousness as well.

- C. Ways in which God has authorized to acquire possessions
1. By laboring for it.
 - i. **Gn 3:19** "In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."
 - ii. **Ep 4:28** "Let him who stole **steal no longer**, but **rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good**, that he may have something to give him who has need."
 - iii. **II Th 3:10** "For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat."
 2. By investing it.
 - i. **Mt 25:27** "So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest."
 - a. **Mt 25:14-30** (Parable of the talents)
 - b. Gambling is not investing it is betting, big difference.
 3. By gift or generosity.
 - i. **I Co 16:1-3** "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: 2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. 3 And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem."
 4. How many of these fit the description of gambling.

CONCLUSION

1. I'm reminded of an old Proverb "In a bet there is a fool and a thief."
(<http://www.quoteagarden.com/gambling.html>)
 - a. Let us not find ourselves with the desire or occasion to be a fool or a thief.
2. Invitation