

Gambling

1. “Gambling” means to play a game for money or some other stake or wager. Gambling has four elements: 1) a wager or stake; 2) a profit from someone else’s loss; 3) a predetermined, preselected, pre-existing chance; and, 4) an arbitrary (man-made) determination of chance.
2. Gambling is legal, popular, and ancient, but it is not lawful by God’s word. Gambling is done for a variety of reasons (most involving simple “fun”), but it is not lawful by God’s word. Gambling is done because of what it accomplishes (lottery for education), but it is not lawful by God’s word.
3. Gambling violates a number of biblical principles: example (Mt. 5:13-16), the “golden rule” (Mt. 7:12), stewardship (Lk. 16:1-13), love (1 Cor. 13:5), doing good (Gal. 6:10), and work (Eph. 4:28; 1 Thess. 4:11).
4. Gambling promotes a number of evils that are contrary to biblical principles: unjust gain (Prov. 15:27; Jer. 17:11; Ezek. 22:12-13), temptation (Mt. 6:13), a stumbling block to others (Mt. 18:6), lack of self-control (1 Cor. 6:12), stealing (Eph. 4:28), fear and worry (Phil. 4:6), covetousness (Col. 3:5), selfishness (Phil. 2:3), evil fruits (1 Tim. 6:6-10), etc.
5. Many want us to tell them what is wrong with gambling. The important question for the gambler is this: What is right about gambling? If a Christian wants to gambling, he must produce the biblical authority for it (Col. 3:17). Where is the scripture in favor of gambling?
6. Gambling does not fit the biblical pattern for gaining money. Gambling is profiting from someone else’s loss. Money can be obtained in the following scriptural ways: 1) sale (Acts 4:34-35); 2) trade (Gen. 47:15-17); 3) gift (Acts 20:35); 4) work (Eph. 4:28); and, 5) bank interest (Mt. 25:27).
7. Don’t start! A gambling addiction gets started with just one small wager, just like one small drink of alcohol, one drug, one cigarette, one look at pornography, etc.