



Anti-Gambling

SUNDAY

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LUKE 12:15, CSB



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A Biblical Case Against Gambling

BY ERLC STAFF

The ethics of Scripture clearly teach that gambling is a sin against God. Part of God's creation of man in his own image was that man would work for his food. While God provided it, Adam and Eve had to exercise "dominion" over the plants and animals and till the soil, working for their sustenance. After they sinned, work changed to a more laborious task, but it remained the way God provided for them. In other words, God's way is that we should earn what we get.

Consider these reasons why gambling violates Christian principles:

- Greed lies at the heart of all gambling. The desire to get something for nothing is really another name for covetousness (Exod. 20:17; Prov. 21:25-26).
- Gambling is a wasteful use of the Lord's money. As Christians, we are required to be a steward of all we have because it belongs to God. We are no freer to gamble with God's money than we are with anyone else's.
- Gambling shows a lack of love for our neighbor. If we really love our neighbor, we want only what is for his good (Matt. 22:39, 1 Cor. 10:24). Can we in good conscience support something that preys on the weaknesses and indulges the worst instincts of those around us?
- Gambling fails to consider innocent families. We might be tempted to think that if a person gambles away all of his money, then that is his problem. But what of his 10-year-old son who can't afford school supplies? What of his daughter's college education? Proverbs 15:27 says "A greedy man brings trouble to his family," and nowhere is that more obvious than in the gambling industry.
- Gambling shows no concern for God's glory. Christians should strive to glorify God in everything (1 Cor. 10:31), and use his or her money to accomplish good for the kingdom (Matt. 6:19-21, 24).
- Gambling is not an act of faith but a game of chance. Paul wrote, "Everything that is not of faith is sin" (Romans 14:23). The Christian life is to be lived in dependence on God to meet all needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19).

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