

GAMBLING, THE LITTLE KNOWN SIN #2

Lotteries are a means of gambling, and gambling is wrong, dead wrong. Gambling, in whatever form it takes is SIN. It violates every principle of truth, equity and honesty. There is not one good thing that can be said of gambling.

In spite of arguments made to say the profits will be used for education or some other good cause, it remains a dishonest and damnable venture. There were some in Paul's day who slanderously accused him of saying, "*Let us do evil, that good may come*" (Rom. 3:8). He declared that "*damnation is just*" for people who think that way! A oft heard expression says "the end justifies the means." But one can never scripturally do a wrong thing in order that good may be the end result. Scripturally, the end does not justify the means. A lottery is evil and we must not do evil and unjustly seek to disguise it under the cover that good will come from it. It's just not right! Therefore, a Christian should not (would not) participate in the selling and/or buying of raffle tickets, even though it is for a good cause.

The words gambling and lottery are not found in the Bible; but neither are the words abortion, drugs and homosexuality. However, they all are condemned in many passages such as 1 Timothy 1:9, 1 John 3:15, Galatians 5:19-21, Romans 1:26-32.

What is so sinful about gambling?

1) Gambling is sinful because it

violates the Golden Rule. "...*All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them...*" (Matt. 7:12). In gambling, you desire that others lose so you can win. It has to be that way in order for it to work. It is "winner take all" while everyone else loses all. That is the foundation upon which gambling exists. That is not what Jesus said in Matthew 7:12. Gambling deprives others of the means of their living. It doesn't matter if they are a willing participant or not, the result is the same. People may agree to steal but, that does not make it right (cf. Rom. 13:9). People may agree to commit fornication, but their agreement doesn't make it right! Fornication is sin, period (1 Cor. 6:13,18)!

2) Gambling is sinful because it is not an honest day's work for an honest day's pay. Gambling is an attempt to beat someone else out of what they have without having to compensate them for it with honest labor. The work ethic God gave man from the very beginning says, "*In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread*" (Gen. 3:19). It is man's responsibility to labor and earn a living. "*Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth*" (Eph. 4:28).

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—Garland M. Robinson