

GAMBLING, THE LITTLE KNOWN SIN #4

What is so sinful about gambling?

7) Gambling is sinful because it destroys the home and family.

“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel” (1 Tim. 5:8,4,16). The addictive nature of gambling has caused many to get into debt so deep they lose everything they have, even their family. Any activity which results in the destruction of the home is sinful. The home is sacred. Man has no right to tamper with it. Jesus said, *“what therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder”* (Matt. 19:6). Gambling has wrecked many a home and left children hungry and cold.

8) Gambling is sinful because it violates the first and great commandment to love God supremely. *“Jesus said ...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind”* (Matt. 22:37). *“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon”* (Matt. 6:24). Our first priority is the Lord’s way, not our own way (cf. Matt. 6:33). Gambling becomes the master of those who participate. It enslaves! You can’t serve God and riches (wealth) at the same time. It takes you away from God.

9) Gambling is sinful because it violates the second great commandment to love thy neighbor as thyself. Jesus said, *“Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself”* (Matt. 22:39). How can one love their

neighbor (which means to seek the best interest of) while trying to gain what is his? When Paul wrote, *“Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others”* (Phil. 2:4), he did not mean to look on the things that others have in order to take it from them! The Lord’s way is to desire that all may be blessed and prosper. This is the same principle as the golden rule of Matthew 7:12. Whether the gambler admits it or not, he/she does not care if their neighbor loses their job, car, house, everything they own, just as long as they win!

10) Gambling is sinful because it prevents one from growing in the Lord.

Becoming a Christian means we have “escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” and must therefore give all diligence to add to our *“...faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity”* (2 Peter 1:5-7). The addictive nature of gambling means we have abandoned virtue (moral goodness — doing right, avoiding wrong), knowledge (understanding God’s will), temperance (self control), patience (steadfast waiting, perseverance), godliness (God likeness, holiness), brotherly kindness (the love we cherish for each other), and charity (good will toward all). How can we exhibit any of these characteristics while desiring that others fail in order that we might win?

#4 of 5

—Garland M. Robinson