

The Bible's Teaching on Gambling

Definition: Gambling: *"The act of risking what is yours in order to get what belongs to another with nothing given in return."*

Coveting: *"Eager to have more; especially what belongs to another."*

When you get something for nothing, remember that somebody else winds up with nothing for their something!

Biblical Principles to Consider Before Gambling:

1. Gambling breeds a form of coveting.

"You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour." - Exodus 20:17

"What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ² You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³ When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures." - James 4:1-3

Gambling is an outward indication of an inner spirit of covetousness.

2. Gambling risks the possessions God's entrusted to us.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." - 1 Peter 4:10

3. Gambling distorts a right perspective about material possessions.

"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them." - 1 John 2:15

4. Gambling creates a stumbling block to the weak.

"Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak." - 1 Corinthians 8:9

5. Gambling destroys my work ethic.

"For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: 'The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.'" - 2 Thessalonians 3:10

6. Gambling violates the Biblical principle of love.

"The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." - Mark 12:31
"Whoever loves his neighbour has fulfilled the law." - Romans 13:8

7. Gambling is a major cause of family neglect.

"Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." - 1 Timothy 5:8

8. Gambling is associated with other sins.

"When they had crucified Him, they divided up His clothes by casting lots." - Matthew 27:35

9. Gambling leads to the downfall of the individual & the community.

10. Governments who run lotteries abandon God's role for them.

"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. ³...do what is right and you will be commended. ⁴ For the one in authority is God's servant for your good." - Romans 13:1,3,4

Who is the world's greatest gambler?

"What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?" - Matthew 16:26

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