

Gambling:  
Don't Bet On It

# Clever skits; catchy jingles

- Billboard

A small wager can make a big difference in your quality of life.

- News

Winners everywhere!!!

- America has changed

# I. What Is Gambling?

# Gambling is . . .

1. A game of chance
2. For money

Gambling is a wager on a risk

Risk what is yours in order  
to get what is another's,  
giving nothing in return

I. What Is Gambling?

II. What Can  
Justify Gambling?

# 1. “Life is a risk”

- E.g.: Farming ... Crossing street ...
- Gambling is NOT a risk
- Gambling is a WAGER on a risk, agreed on by participants
  - Farmer takes risks, but his profit does not come at expense of another.

For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope – 1 Co.9:10

1. "Life is a risk"

## 2. "Bible never condemns gambling"

- What is the unstated major premise?
- For example:
  1. If street is wet, it rained.
  2. Street is wet.
  3. Therefore, it rained.
- Application:
  1. Everything not expressly condemned in NT is allowed.
  2. Rape is not expressly condemned.
  3. Therefore, rape is allowed.

Hb.5:14

1. "Life is a risk"

2. "Bible never condemns gambling"

3. "I see nothing wrong with it on small scale or for good cause."

- Is standard based on my view? Pr.14:12
- Is sinfulness of act determined by degree of involvement or motive?

Steal \$100

Steal \$0.01

White lie?

Other lies?

- Gam-Anon disagrees
- Fantasy sports



I. What Is Gambling?

II. What Can Justify Gambling?

**III. What Is Wrong  
With Gambling?**

# 1. It is against God's plan

- God authorizes gain by . . .
  1. Honest work, Gn.2; Ep.4:28.
    - Exchange time / labor for money.

**23** And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, **24** knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ  
– Colossians 3.

# 1. It is against God's plan

- God authorizes gain by . . .
  1. Honest work, Gn.2; Ep.4:28.
    - Exchange time / labor for money.

<sup>7</sup> For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you ... <sup>10</sup> For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. ... <sup>12</sup> Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread – 2 Thessalonians 3.

# 1. It is against God's plan

- God authorizes gain by . . .

1. Honest work, Gn.2; Ep.4:28.

2. Bartering.

So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest

– Matthew 25:27. [2 K.4]

# 1. It is against God's plan

- God authorizes gain by . . .
  1. Honest work, Gn.2; Ep.4:28.
  2. Bartering, Mt.25:27.
  3. Benevolence, Lk.10 (Ep.4:28).

# 1. It is against God's plan

- God authorizes gain by . . .

1. Honest work, Gn.2; Ep.4:28.
2. Bartering, Mt.25:27.
3. Benevolence, Lk.10 (Ep.4:28).
4. Inheritance.

**14** Now for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek yours, but you. For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children – 2 Cor.12.

# 1. It is against God's plan

- God authorizes gain by . . .

1. Honest work, Gn.2; Ep.4:28.

2. Bartering, Mt.25:27.

3. Benevolence, Lk.10 (Ep.4:28).

4. Inheritance, 2 Co.12:14.

5. Gambling?? Exploits others; special stealing. Ex.20:15.

## 2. It is covetousness, Ex.20:17

- Forbids desire to take what belongs to another ... a sin of the heart
  - Lust, desire
  - LXX: greedy desire for more.
  - Ac.20:33 . . . Ep.5:3-5
  - 1 Tim.6:10, synonym of covetousness

Alcoholic can avoid temptations...  
Each check tempts covetous man



### 3. Golden rule, Mt.7:12

- In gambling, many must lose for few to win  
– exploits others for profit.
- Could gamblers survive by practicing the  
'golden rule'?

## 4. Produces evil fruits, Mt.7:20

- Addiction
- Criminals
- Devastated families
- Suicides
- One in five homeless people: gambling contributed to their poverty . . . yet many continue...

## 5. Smell test, Ec.10:1 [Gal.5:19-21...]

1. Help or hinder my influence? Mt.5:16.  
Jn.19:23-27.
2. Tug soul toward earth or heaven? Mt.6:19-21; 19.
3. Make me better steward or worse?  
Mt.6:33
4. Stain reputation of Lord and His people?  
Ro.2:24...
5. Can I know I will not become addicted?  
1 Co.6:12. Ec.5:10

## 5. Smell test, Ec.10:1

6. Would I want church to know? 1 Co.10:23-31
7. If everyone did it, would society be better or worse?
8. Would I want others to win my possessions? Gal.5:14
9. Would I ask Jesus to participate with me? 1 Pt.2:21

# Do not gamble with your . . .

1. Revenue. Mt.25; Lk.16.
2. Relationships. Family; children; church
3. Reward. Mt.10...

**41** He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. **42** And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.