

## Is Gambling a Sin?

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**Introduction: Gambling is a Popular Practice, but Does That Make it Right? (Mt. 7:13-14).**

### I. Defining the Practice of Gambling.

A. To gamble is “to risk or bet something of value on the outcome of an event, a game of chance, etc.” (Webster); “Gamblers usually bet money or something else of value as a stake on the outcome they predict. When the outcome is settled, the winner collects the loser’s stakes” (Encyclopedia Britannica).

B. Gambling is *not just* about taking a risk, for risk is involved in many practices that are not gambling (e.g., farming, business ventures, buying stock, insurance, crossing the street, etc.)

C. Gambling *must* consist of three essential elements: (1) An uncertain event that is arbitrarily determined; (2) The stake (i.e., wager or bet that is deliberately chanced); (3) A winner and a loser (e.g., **John 19:23-24**).

D. Gambling is *not* a donation and it is not determined by the size or amount of money or property involved (e.g., \$50 bet on a horse, \$1 in a raffle, flipping for a coke, etc.).

### II. Gambling Violates Many Biblical Principles of God.

A. Gambling involves covetousness and greed (**Col. 3:5; 1 Tim. 6:10**).

B. Gambling does not demonstrate love and it goes against “the Golden Rule.” (**Mat. 22:39; Rom. 13:10; Mat. 7:12**).

C. Gambling is wrong (like stealing), for it violates the proper means of transfer of money and property according to God’s law (e.g., earning by labor, fair exchange, giving a gift). (**Eph. 4:28; 2 Thes. 3:10, 12; Acts 16:14; 4:32-37; Lk. 22:36; Mat. 2:11 / Eph. 4:28; Prov 16:8**).

D. Gambling is accompanied by evils (e.g., crime, divorce, alcohol or drug addictions, prostitution, stealing, murder, suicide, etc.) and therefore gives the appearance of evil (**1 Thes. 5:22; Phil. 2:14-16; Mat. 5:16**).

E. Gambling is addictive (e.g., Gamblers Anonymous) and can become our “master” to the point that it dominates and destroys our lives (**1 Cor. 6:12; 10:12**).

F. Gambling is poor stewardship of what God has given to us (**Jas. 1:17; Mat. 25:14-30**).

G. Christians are not people that must get in order to give (e.g., buy a raffle ticket for charity in order to win a prize) (**Acts 20:35; 2 Cor. 9:7; Luke 6:35**).

### **III. The Ends Do Not Justify the Means, *Even* When it Comes to Gambling!**

A. Even though gambling is done (in some cases) for noble or charitable (e.g., church, benevolence, education, school activities, environment, reduction of taxes, etc.) does **not** make it right!

B. The claim that a noble goal justifies any means necessary to accomplish the end goal is *just an excuse* to disobey God’s commands (e.g. **1 Sam 13; Num 20:8-12; 2 Tim 4:3-4**).

C. All things we do, in order to please God, will be done by His authority or approval (**Col. 3:17**).

**Conclusion: We Cannot Gamble Even a Little and Still Expect to Go to Heaven. We Must Abstain From Every Form of Evil and Gambling is a Form from Which We Must Abstain.**