

THE LOTTERY LIE

INTRODUCTION

1. America is on a gambling binge; it is the new invisible addiction.
 - a. 500 billion dollars is wagered legally every year in America; estimates are up to one trillion when you add in illegal gambling.
 - b. In 1974, Gallup poll results showed that 61% of Americans gambled; in 1989, 71%; and in 1995, 95% of Americans say they gamble.
 - 1) 82% play the lottery.
 - 2) 75% play slot machines.
 - 3) 50% bet on dogs and horses.
 - 4) 44% bet on cards.
 - 5) 34% on bingo.
 - 6) 26% on sporting events.
 - c. Gambling expenditures each year exceed the amount spent on films, books, amusements, music, and entertainment combined.
 - d. Upwards of 10% of American's annual income is thrown away on gambling.
 - e. Money earned by illegal gambling interests is largely "laundered" through pornography and prostitution.
 - f. New technology makes gambling readily available by telephone or the internet.
2. Whether it is the casino, the lottery, or the local raffle, it is all gambling, and all gambling is wrong.
3. What is gambling?
 - a. They change the words: Gambling becomes gaming; a gambling saloon is a casino.
 - b. The word "gambling" comes from an Old English word that means game.
 - 1) It is a game that is not based on skill, reason, or anything controllable, but sheer chance.
 - 2) The word "gambling" is not found per se in the Bible, but neither is "you shall not drive through a school zone at 110 mph."
 - 3) The Bible is not a book of minute laws, as much as it is a book of great principles.
 - 4) You may find loopholes in laws, but you do not find loopholes in principles.
 - c. Gambling is not taking a risk.
 - 1) The Bible even encourages taking a risk.
 - 2) If you invest in a business or the stock market, you take a risk.

- 3) Jesus scolded a man for not taking a risk with the bankers (Matthew 25:26-27).
 - 4) Ecclesiastes 11:4 – "He who watches the wind will not sow and he who looks at the clouds will not reap."
- d. Gambling is not investing in legitimate.
 - 1) Legitimate business is win/win.
 - 2) I make a product, and you buy the product; we both win.
 - 3) Gambling is win/lose.
 - a) For there to be a winner there must be a loser or many losers.
 - b) I am trying to get in my possession that which belongs to you without a fair exchange.

I. GAMBLING TRANSGRESSES THE PRINCIPLE OF HONESTY

- A. The Bible says, "You shall not steal," and "You shall not covet;" gambling has behind it a spirit of dishonesty.
- B. Gambling is first cousin to stealing.
 1. Stealing is getting what belongs to another person in my possession without giving him anything for it.
 2. If two people meet in a back ally, one has a gun, and comes out with what belonged to the other man, we call that stealing.
 3. If two people meet in a back room, one has a pair of dice, and comes out with what belonged to the other man, we call that gambling.
 4. What is the difference?
 - a. In one, you have one thief; in the other you have two.
 - b. You say, "But there was mutual consent."
 - c. Dueling is murder by mutual consent, but we have made laws against that.

II. GAMBLING TRANSGRESSES THE PRINCIPLE OF CHARITY

- A. We are to love one another.
 1. Gambling takes advantage of those who can least afford it.
 2. Matthew 22:37-40.
 3. Do you want your neighbor to lose, to be taken advantage of, and to cause them to stumble?
 4. Romans 14:13 – "Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this — not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way."

- B. All gambling is pleasure and profit at someone else's pain and loss.
1. You cannot win at gambling without someone losing.
 2. When you gamble and win, you lower yourself; therefore every winner is a loser, because you have taken advantage of someone else.
 3. Even petty gambling may become a dangerous habit.
 4. "I don't like people going across the state line to buy a lottery ticket, or go to a casino."
 - a. Oh, so you are in favor of a teenager riding his bicycle a couple of blocks.
 - b. What we are doing is creating a convenient nuisance.
- C. Innocent people are harmed by gambling.
1. The poor are hurt the most.
 2. Statistics show that the poor wage a higher percentage of their income.
 3. Gambling is a form of regressive taxation.
 4. In New Jersey, one out of three families with an annual income of less than \$10,000 spends 20% of it on gambling.

III. GAMBLING TRANSGRESSES THE PRINCIPLE OF INDUSTRY

- A. 2 Thessalonians 3:10 – "if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either."
- B. Ephesians 4:28 – "He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need."
- C. Gambling is an economic fraud.
1. It is a leech, and a parasite.
 2. It takes money from one legitimate business that should go to another legitimate business.
 3. In New York City, they were advertising the lottery on city buses:
 - a. "Play your hunch. Win a bunch."
 - b. But the citizens of New York had to lose a bunch for the thing to work.
 - c. Economically, a city, state, or nation needs lotteries and casinos like a duck needs a bathing suit, or a drowning man needs a drink of water.

IV. GAMBLING TRANSGRESSES THE PRINCIPLE OF FIDELITY

- A. We are to love the Lord our God with all of our heart.
1. Matthew 6:33.
 2. We as Christians do not really believe in "luck."
- B. "Well, I play the lottery for a little innocent fun. I can afford to lose a little money, and it may go to a good cause."

1. You miss the point altogether.
2. You are participating in something that is inherently wrong.
3. All good recreation renews, restores, relaxes, reinvigorates.
4. Gambling is a curse and it brings vice and crime.
5. If you see a buzzard circling, you know something is rotten.
 - a. Everywhere gambling goes there is vice, crime, prostitution, and narcotics.
 - b. It matters not whether it is the lottery, the casino, or whatever.
 - c. "It is just my fun." No, if your friend undermines somebody else's morality there is something wrong with your fun.

CONCLUSION

1. Summary.
2. Appeal.



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