

Gambling

Question:

Can one be guilty of gambling in ways that seem innocent, like buying chances on cars, cakes, fruit baskets, punch boards, and many other things which may seem innocent?

I. WHAT IS GAMBLING?

a. WHAT GAMBLING IS NOT:

- i. People have obscured matters by the loose way in which they use the word “gamble”.
- ii. They call anything a gamble in which there is a doubt about the outcome.
- iii. With these people:
 1. Life itself is a gamble.
 2. Farming is a gamble.
 3. Playing ball is a gamble.
- iv. Prizes won on MERIT is not gambling:
 1. There is a clear distinction between competing for a prize where merit wins, and gambling.
 2. Horse shows, poultry shows, stock shows, and all shows of like nature, are not gambling.
 3. The prizes are given for accomplishment and improvement merit wins.

b. WHAT GAMBLING IS:

- i. The word GAMBLING defined: “To play or game for money or other stake; to hazard; wager”.
- ii. In gambling one takes a risk in order to obtain something for nothing, and his gain is another man’s loss.
- iii. Gambling is a wager placed on a chance:
 1. The outcome of a ballgame is a chance; a wager placed on that chance is a gamble.
- iv. Gambling is stealing from another by mutual consent.

II. GAMBLING COMES UNDER NONE OF THE THREE WAYS OF TRANSFERRING MONEY:

a. THE LAW OF LABOR – (physical or mental, where one actually earns, by time and energy expended, the money he receives.

- i. Paul talked about this law in Eph. 4:28.
- ii. Paul received wages for his labor in the gospel – 2 Cor. 11:8.
- iii. Jesus set forth this law – Luke 10:7; Matt. 10: 9 – 10.

b. THE LAW OF EXCHANGE – A commodity is exchanged for its value in money.

- i. Members of the Jerusalem church gives us a good example of this law – Acts 2: 44 – 45; 4: 34 – 35.
- ii. The Farmer.

c. THE LAW OF LOVE – Something is given without any desire or expectation of receiving any return.

- i. I John 3:17; I Tim. 3:16

III. GAMBLING COMES UNDER NONE OF THESE LAWS.

- a. Gambling denies the integrity of work, the law of labor.
- b. Gambling – “getting something for nothing” attitude breeds laziness and makes men who gamble parasites of society.
- c. The gambler’s lazy and indolent life is in conflict with Paul’s statement in 2 Thess. 3: 10 – 11.

IV. GAMBLING IS WRONG BECAUSE IT VIOLATES THE LAW OF EXCHANGE – NOTHING IS RECEIVED IN RETURN FOR SOMETHING.

- a. Gambling is stealing with consent.
- b. Like dueling is murder with consent.

V. GAMBLING IS THE OPPOSITE OF THE LAW OF LOVE.

- a. It is based on coveting the possessions of others.
- b. Jesus warns – Luke 12: 15; I Cor. 5:11; Eph. 5:3

VI. IS ONE GUILTY OF GAMBLING WHEN HE BUYS A CHANCE ON A CAR, CAKE, FRUIT BASKET, AND PUNCHES ON A PUNCH BOARD, ETC. ?

- a. Just because these do not create big hazardous risks does not change the principle involved.
- b. The same principle is involved in these things that is involved in high stakes.
- c. It is from small gambling that one goes on to big gambling.
- d. With God it is the principle, not the amount involved.
- e. A Christian cannot afford to injure his influence by engaging in doubtful practices.