Gambling

Intro: Some ask, “Where does the Bible condemn gambling?” They want a passage that specifically mentions the practice of gambling. They have a misconception of the New Testament, for it sets forth principles by which to live. When something goes against these principles it is sin. (Heb. 5:14 “But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”) Gambling, like many others sins, is thus condemned.

I. **Gambling Violates The Principle Of Faithful Stewardship.**
   A. **We are to be stewards.**
      1. 1 Cor. 4:1-2 “Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”
      2. Luke 12:42 “And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?”
      3. 1 Pet. 4:10 “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

   B. **What is a steward?**
      1. *Steward* means “house law” and “denotes the manager of the house.”
      2. In a Scriptural sense, one who has received a trust (gift) from God and is in partnership with God through Christ for the working out of God’s purposes.
      3. God never gives up his ownership; the steward has the privilege of administering that which God gives him.

II. **It Violates The Principle Of Doing An Honest Work For One’s Bread.**
   A. **God has always commanded man to work.**
      1. Gen. 2:15 “And the L ORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.”
      2. Gen. 3:17-19 “And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; 18Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 19In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”
      3. Exo. 20:8-11 “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 8Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 9But the seventh day is the sabbath of the L ORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: 10For in six days the L ORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the L ORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”
      4. Rom. 12:11 “Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;”
      5. 1 The. 4:11 “And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;”
      6. 2 The. 3:10 “For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.”

   B. **Gambling hopes that “lady luck” will be good to them**
      1. Lady luck owes you nothing
      2. In fact 19 out of 20 are losers.
III. GAMBLING IS HIGHLY ADDICTIVE.

A. Being brought under an addiction.
   1. 1 Cor. 6:12 “All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.”
   2. Gal. 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”
      a. Temperance is self-control.
      b. The various powers God bestows upon man are capable of abuse; the right use demands the controlling power of the will under the operation of the Spirit of God.

B. Authorities estimate there are more than 6 million compulsive gamblers in the United States. 10% of new gamblers will become addicts.

IV. GAMBLING IS A FREQUENT COMPANION WITH OTHER VICES.

A. 1 Thes. 5:22 “Abstain from all appearance of evil.”

B. Stealing, drugs, prostitution, suicide, are associated with gambling.
   1. William Webster, former director of the FBI stated in 1985, “We know of no situation in which legalized gambling was in place where we did not eventually have organized crime.”
   2. Compulsive gamblers are responsible for 17% of wife abuse; 13% of child abuse; 40% of all white-collar crimes. 86% admit committing felony crimes while pursuing gambling.

V. GAMBLING DESTROYS HOMES.

A. 1 Tim. 5:8 “But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”

B. When people gamble away their money, it then takes away the necessities of life from his family.

C. 43% of divorced women in Gamblers Anonymous identified gambling as a major factor in the failure of their marriages.

VI. GAMBLING IS THE ENEMY OF MENTAL PEACE.

A. Through Christ we have peace.
   1. John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”
   2. Phi. 4:7 “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

B. Gambling brings fear and anxiety and thus the suicide rate is very high.

VII. GAMBLING SETS A BAD EXAMPLE.

A. Rom. 12:17 “Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.”

B. 1 Tim. 4:12 “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

C. 1 Tim. 5:14 “I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.”

D. 2 Pet. 2:2 “And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.”

Conclusion: Gambling is an activity that no Christian should engage in.