

What is Gambling?

- Webster defines gambling as (1) to play a game for money or property--to bet on the uncertain outcome.
- The World Book Dictionary says, "To play games of chance for money or other valuable stakes--to gamble at cards; to gamble on the result of a race."
- The World Book Encyclopedia states: "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."

There are Four essential elements of gambling.

- The “Uncertainty” of the Event or outcome. It is arbitrarily determined... or at least, those who are making wagers are not to have control over the outcome.
- The Stakes... each player places at risk some possession of material value.
- The Agreement or the wager or bet.
- Lack of fair compensation. There is always a winner and there are always losers

What it is not

- The risks of life: it is not crossing the street, or driving a car.
- Games or sports without stakes or bets
- Owning a business
- Investing in stock
- Buying insurance
- It is not winning a prize unless the opportunity to win is purchased.
- It is not a donation.

What wrong with it?

- Gambling is addictive (1 Cor. 6:12)
 - Present in the electronic media
 - “World Poker Tour” (Travel Channel)
 - “World Series of Poker” (ESPN)
 - “Celebrity Poker Showdown” (Bravo)
 - “The Casino” (Fox)

What wrong with it?

- Internet gambling is exploding
 - 73 million (up 20 million in 5 years) will visit online casinos an average of 6 times annually, losing billions of dollars
- Present on high school campuses
 - Teenagers gamble sooner than they smoke & drink (University of Minnesota, 1998)
 - 87% gambled for money ('96 Conn. study)
 - 40% involved in some form of state-sanctioned gambling

What wrong with it?

- Present on college campuses
 - One Indiana U. junior lost \$55,000 (mostly online poker) (*Sports Illustrated*, May 30, 2005)
 - 85% involved in some form of gambling (23% on weekly basis) (*1991 study*)
 - 72% college football & basketball players while in college (*Univ. of Michigan*, 1998)
 - 672,000 students “addicted” in 1997

What wrong with it?

- Gambling is covetousness (Col. 3:5)
- Gambling violates the principle of stewardship (1 Pet. 4:10; 1 Cor. 4:2; Matt. 25:14-30)
- Gambling joins us with the ungodly (2 Cor. 6:14)

What wrong with it?

- Gambling violates the Biblical and legitimate means of transfer of money and property
 - Law of labor (1 Tim. 5:18)
 - Exchange (Jas. 4:13)
 - Gifts or giving (Eph. 4:28)
 - Inheritance (2 Cor. 12:14)
- Gambling destroys our influence for good (Matt. 5:13-16)