

I. The Heart of the Problem with Gambling

1. At the heart of gambling or the motivation for gambling is covetousness.
 - a. Covetousness is a desire to have more and is often connected with material things such as money.
 - b. The shallow argument is sometimes given that gambling is entertainment and should be treated as such.
2. Solomon warned against a desire to get rich quick ([Pr. 28:22](#)).
 - a. He gave other warnings against acquiring riches wickedly ([Pr. 13:11](#), [28:8](#)).
3. Jesus warned against covetousness ([Lk. 12:13-15](#)).
 - a. He then gave a parable to further illustrate the point ([Lk. 12:16-21](#)).
 - b. Covetousness is sin ([Mk. 7:21-23](#); [Rm. 1:29-32](#); [Eph. 5:3-5](#); [Col. 3:5-6](#)).
 - c. Therefore, at the heart of gambling is a sinful activity.
4. Riches are not to be our source of trust.
 - a. To do such is to sin and deny God ([Job 31:24-28](#)).
 - b. Instead, our riches are to be stored up in Heaven ([Mt. 6:19-21](#)).

II. Gambling is Not an Authorized Way to Make Money

1. The Bible is clear that there are five ways which we are authorized to make money and gambling is not one of them.
2. We are authorized to work to provide income ([2 Th. 3:10](#); [Eph. 4:28](#); cf. [1 Tim. 5:8](#)).
 - a. Gambling attempts to take without working via games of chance.
 - b. One of the reason we work is that we can give to those in need ([Eph. 4:28](#)).
 - c. Gambling encourages a lack of labor.
3. We are authorized to leave and receive an inheritance ([Dt. 21:17](#); [1 Ch. 28:8](#); [Pr. 13:22](#); [Lk. 15:11-12](#); [2 Cor. 12:14](#)).
 - a. Gambling is incredibly selfish.
4. We are authorized to legally invest our money ([Mt. 25:27](#)).
 - a. Gambling and investment are two different things.
 - b. When I invest in a company I **share** in their gains **and** losses.
 - c. Gambling is all about me benefiting from everyone else losing.
5. We are authorized to give and receive a gift ([Mt. 2:11](#), [7:11](#); cf. [Jm. 1:17](#)).

- a. Gambling is all about take.
6. We are authorized to obtain money via finding ([Mt. 13:44](#)).
 - a. Gambling causes people to lose more often than not.
 - b. The golden rule would necessitate us to do what is in our power **first** to restore something lost to the owner but such is not always possible ([Mt. 7:12](#)).
7. Remember, the end does not justify the means with gambling ([Rm. 3:8](#), [6:1-2](#); cf. [Dt. 23:18](#)).
 - a. Let this be remembered when some make the argument that gambling supports education.
 - b. Consider the state of Nevada, home to Las Vegas (dubbed Sin City), that should have plenty of money for education who ranked 46th out of 50 states in education attainment and 36th for quality of education (Source: <https://www.8newsnow.com/news/local-news/study-lists-nevada-as-one-of-the-least-educated-states/>).

III. Gambling is Addictive

1. Similar to drugs, gambling is addictive.
2. Online gambling is driving the addiction deeper and it is affecting our youth.
3. Those behind gambling know it is addictive and are enticing to gamble accordingly.
4. We must not allow anything to overpower us such that it causes us to sin ([1 Cor. 6:12](#); [1 Th. 5:22](#)).
 - a. There is always a way of escape with temptation ([1 Cor. 10:13](#)).