

DO YOU AGREE WITH JESUS?

QUESTION: How would Jesus view gambling?

Gambling in various forms is legal almost nationwide. There are casinos, horse-tracks, dog-tracks, bingo halls, state lotteries and the like with which we are forced to contend. Those in favor of gambling would point to all of the revenue that is generated to be used for the good of society. However, most advocates of games of chance do not take into account the problems that such enterprises bring with them. However, we are not concerned with what I may think or what you may think about gambling. How would Jesus address the myriad forms of gambling that we see around us?

Jesus directs our attention to the dangers of greed when he said, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15). If we were to choose one word to sum up the enterprise of gambling, it would have to be "greed." Gambling in every form preys upon man's desire to have something for nothing. It exacerbates the problems that already plague our society among those who long for the possessions of others. Those who would engage in gambling show a lack of trust in God to provide for his/her needs. Jesus also addressed the need to treat others as we desire to be treated: "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets" (Matthew 7:12). In order for one to be successful at gambling, many others have to fail. Places of gambling do not exist to pay out money. There is not a 50/50 split among winners and losers in these places of gambling. The failure rate far exceeds the rate of success. One must essentially wish misfortune upon others in order to succeed at gambling. This does not sound to me to be too neighborly. Gambling in any form is a violation of the Golden Rule.

Gambling is just an attempt of the Devil to destroy the home and society. Those who would salve their consciences by thinking that gambling is helping charities or other worthy institutions are fooling themselves. Gambling is a sin, and must be avoided at all costs!

Do you have a question that you would like for us to consider together, or a comment regarding what has been written? If so, please, Avenue Church of Christ, 1501 Sixth Avenue, Jasper, Alabama, 35501.