

GAMBLING – RIGHT OR WRONG

Key verse 1 Tim 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Definition: - Gambling is “an agreement between two parties whereby the transfer of something of value is made dependent on an uncertain event, in such a way that one party will gain and the other lose” {Churches’ Council on Gambling, 1974.}

Lottery, Pick 3, Pyramid schemes, horse racing and other means of gambling abound. In fact by the recent proliferation of these schemes it would appear that Jamaica is fast becoming a nation of gamblers. It is not too easy sometimes to define what is actually gambling.

THINGS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE CLASSED AS GAMBLING

1. **INSURANCE:** because clients intend to avert unavoidable risks by paying their premiums, not embrace artificial risks by parting with their stake money
2. **CASTING LOTS AS WAS DONE IN THE SCRIPTURES:** because the intention was either to discern Yahweh’s will or to ensure fairness.
 - a) Lev 16:8, Num 34:13, Jonah 1:7, Acts 1:26.
3. **CERTAIN BUSINESS INVESTMENTS:** these are harder to categorize because it all depends of the intent of the investor.

THE ARGUMENTS GIVEN BY SOME WHY GAMBLING IS ACCEPTABLE

- a) They point to the good that money collected from gambling and lotteries and raffles has done. Eg. Helping schools, hospitals, churches and other needy institutions.
- b) A means of entertainment and pleasure.
- c) Nowhere directly condemned in the bible.
- d) That Yahweh provides us with everything for our enjoyment.
- e) That it is no different from one spending their money in whatever gives them pleasure or amusement.

FOUR REASONS GIVEN BY WILLIAM TEMPLE WHY GAMBLING IS WRONG

- 1) It glorifies chance. In the bible Yahweh provided for His peoples need, thus rather than trusting our luck we should trust in His providence.
- 2) We are stewards of whatever we have, thus gambling risks what belongs to Yahweh
- 3) Gambling attempts to profit out of someone else’s loss, therefore we cannot be loving our neighbour as ourselves by gambling.
- 4) Those who promote gambling appeal to human covetousness, which is a selfish approach to life.

Think on these things:- Once deeply ingrained the habit can master its victim, leading to stealing, breakdown of marriage, loss of job. Yahweh hath a better way for us- the way of faith diligence, prayer and generosity.