

Gambling is an issue the church seems to shy away from, mostly because there are so many "Christians" who still justify it as fun or an innocent form of recreation of which they themselves continue to participate.

Simply put, gambling is the art of deception personified. It bleeds society for the sake of greed while it throws the crumbs of its profiting debauchery to the local charity organizations, schools and independent humanitarian programs only to watch as they lap up this offering as though they had good sense.

This act of "Christian-compromise" has diluted the impact of the Body of Christ. Some Christians take advantage of the all you can eat buffets, some the hotels, and others the golf courses and amenities.

Do we truly believe by only playing on their golf courses, eating from their dining halls or sleeping on their posture-pedics that we are not condoning the survival of such dens of harlotry where countless thousands have sold their souls, their marriages, their children, their jobs and even their homes for another round of innocent fun?

Spend just three minutes on the internet doing word searches for the facts on "The effects of Gambling" and you will spend the next three hours reading all of the statistics that infallibly prove gambling to be the source of spiritual, financial, and emotional bankruptcy for the individual as well as many states that condone such activity under the cloak of "bringing revenue, employment and economic growth".

The Holy Scriptures speak emphatically against gambling. It specifically cites those who participate in and propagate such activity as being those who strive to gain wealth by vanity (Pr 13:11); those who find and remain in poverty (Pr 28:19, 22); Those who bring grief to their family (Pr 15:27); those who are robbed of life (Pr 1:19); those who will never have enough (Ec 5:10); and those who will be found guilty before God (Rv 20:12).

All that aside for a moment. Why would we even begin to consider associating ourselves with an activity that literally stripped our precious Lord of His earthly clothes and left Him naked on a cross before His accusers? (Mk 15:24)

Gambling is an art of chance based on deception whose profit depends on the lustful ignorance and willing demise of the humankind. God declared it this way, "Thou shalt not covet". Covetousness, otherwise known as lust, is defined as a strong desire after the possession of worldly things and/or the things of others (Ex 20:17).

I do not hate the gambler; I do not despise the casino/lottery employee; I do not detest the owners of these establishments nor the organizations that operate them. These individuals need an encounter with Jesus, the Son of the Living God who will bring them face to face with their sin so they might find grace in their time of need, bringing them to a place of repentance and providing for them, as for us all, a chance for salvation and/or refilling with His precious Holy Spirit. I do though, loathe the evil spirit of deception constantly crying out for satisfaction when there is none to be found.

I could bore you with multiple examples of why not to participate in such foolishness, but I would rather leave you with a meditation by a writer simply known as Isaiah from his self titled book in the sixty-fifth chapter and verse eleven:

"...because you have forsaken the Lord and His temple and worship the gods of 'fate and destiny', I will destine you to the sword."

Please, I beg you, if you are one who has been justifying your participation in acts of this type of deception and the demise of our society; if you have been supporting this type of ungodly gain at any level, please repent and recommit yourself wholly to the God of our salvation.

Let us eagerly look forward to His glorious return on that day when we shall receive the crown of righteousness from the Lord our Righteous judge.

May the Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you all.

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