

Six Secrets About Gambling

By Don W. Chaffin

INTRO: On Feb. 7, 1996, Anna Jo Wilson, a BSU director at OCU, called seeking info on counseling for a close friend's husband. The man was a referee and had been gambling on sporting events. A typical problem gambler, he swore, "I can handle it!" He was down \$41,000 and was about to lose all he owned. YES, gambling is addictive, and controlling, and it becomes some people's god.

There are six secrets every individual should know about gambling:

I. DISRUPTS THE ECONOMY

- A. It cannibalizes legitimate business
- B. It overloads welfare
(Gambling costs Alabama \$312 million a year)

II. DEFIES JUSTIFICATION

- A. It brings in no new money.
(A state has only so many gambling dollars)
- B. It makes losers of those who can least afford it.
(The average compulsive gambler costs society \$13,200 a year)

III. DRAWS ADDITIONAL CRIME

- (66% of all crime in Atlantic City is casino-related)
- (\$1.3 billion in insurance fraud is committed annually by compulsive gamblers.)
- A. Gambling increases bribery, embezzlement, burglary, thefts, etc.
- B. Gambling increases alcohol-related crimes (casinos give free drinks).

IV. DESTROYS LIVES

- 1 Timothy 6:10 – "the love of money is the root of all evil."
- Ill. – 19-year old in Illinois committed suicide because he couldn't pay gambling debts.
- Ill. – In the summer of 1995, Mary Ann Heath, an Oklahoma City woman, shot and killed her husband to collect his life insurance money in order to support her bingo addiction.

V. DAMAGES INNOCENT PEOPLE

- A. Tension in the home skyrockets
Proverbs 15:27 – "He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house."
- B. Often Brings Divorce
- C. Often results in child and spousal abuse
- D. Always increases community problems

VI. DISREGARDS BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

- A. On covetousness (Exodus 20:17)
- B. On having no other Gods (Exodus 20:3)
- C. On stealing (Exodus 20:15)
- D. On honest labor (Exodus 20:9; Ephesians 4:28)
- E. On living by faith, not greed (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- F. On stewardship ("God loves a cheerful giver"; "more blessed to give")
- G. On a living example (2 Corinthians 3:2 – "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men.")

CONCLUSION: Romans 6:16 – "Know ye not that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey."

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