

INTRODUCTION

Father Andrew Trapp of St. Michael Catholic Church recently appeared on the FOX poker show “Poker Stars Million Dollar Challenge.” Over the course of his poker playing Father Trapp would eventually earn \$100,000 and a seat at the Table of Champions.

As you watch the interview, take note of Father Trapp’s reason for playing poker, his designation for the winnings, and his comfort as he goes out. Are his reasons proper or improper and why?

FORMS OF GAMBLING

Poker isn’t the only form of gambling that exists today. Take 1 minute and write down all the different forms of gambling that people participate in today.

1. Why do people gamble?

2. What questions would you ask in order to highlight the scriptural principals that apply to the subject of betting?
 - a. **Example** – How is this behavior affecting my relationship with God?

 - b.

- c.
- d.
- e.

WHAT DOES GOD HAVE TO SAY ABOUT:

1. “Lady Luck”
 - Psalm 33:8-11 -

 - Proverbs 16:9 -

 - Psalm 37:5 -

 - James 4:13-15 -
2. Greed
 - 1 Timothy 6:6-10 -
3. Coveting
 - 1 Kings 21 -
4. Idolatry
 - Exodus 20:3,4 -

 - Matthew 4:10 -
5. Work
 - 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10 -

APPLICATION QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Place an “A” in the blank next to the statement if you agree or a “D” in the blank next to the statement if you disagree.

___ Gambling is neither forbidden by God nor commanded.

___ Buying a lottery ticket is a sin.

___ Spending \$10/week on a regular basis for lottery tickets is a sin.

___ "All of life is a gamble."

___ Gambling is a social issue, not a spiritual one.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

To say gambling is wrong on all levels is to say drinking is wrong on all levels. Paul writes to the Corinthian Christians, **So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31)**. The question I want to ask myself is how is this activity going to glorify God and how is it allowing me to fulfill my other responsibilities that I have in life.