

Principles in Scripture

- *Love your neighbor as yourself*
- *Beware of greed/covetousness*
- *Provide for things honorable in the sight of men*
- *Does it violate civil law*
- *Will it cause others to sin*
- *Militates against God's plan for all to work*

Efforts to Justify

- *No difference than farming, business*
- *TV? ... cause loss of time, money, family*
- *Proceeds for good causes (jobs, education)*
- *Not condemned by name*
- *Limited amount, so negligible loss or injury*
- *Not gamble for money, but for fun*
- *Those involved “agree” to potential loss*
- *Everybody takes a risk. Life is a gamble*

Efforts to Justify

No difference than farming, business

- Difference — in THIS gambling, *someone must lose and someone WILL lose.*
- Illustration
 - Bus. invest., stocks - ALL to GAIN
 - Gambling - MOST MUST LOSE

Efforts to Justify

TV? ... cause loss of time, money, family?

- Difference — in gambling, that *someone must lose is INEVITABLE*. TV - loss due to misuse.
- BOTH wrong when used to gain at *inevitable* loss of others!

Efforts to Justify

Proceeds for good causes (jobs, education)

- Cost to repair evil outweigh proceeds?
- **Rom 3:8** “do evil that good may come”?
- Robin Hood

Efforts to Justify

Not condemned by name

- True - but neither is “nudity,” “pushing drugs,” “pornography,” “suicide.”
- Bible not encyclopedia. Principles to be applied. See scriptures throughout lesson.

Efforts to Justify

Limited amount, so negligible loss or injury

- How limit? People buy multiple tickets.
- Where draw the line?
- Sure way to avoid - *never start*. **1Tim 6:10**

Efforts to Justify

Not gamble for money, but for fun

- Then leave the money out!
- “Fun” justify harm to others, undermine influence for Christ?

Efforts to Justify

Those involved “agree” to whatever loss they suffer (“by consent”).

- Justify wife-swapping, fornication, dueling, suicide ... ?
- Rom 1:32

Efforts to Justify

Everybody takes a risk. Life is a gamble.

- Define the KIND of “gambling” discussed
Compare: Everybody has “sex.” Therefore
“sex” between the unmarried OK!
- Farmer successful - BOTH he and consumer benefit; Gambler successful - someone **SUFFERS LOSS.**

- Parents
- Set proper example
- Provide wholesome entertainment, duties for children
- Learn and teach children the evils of this and other allurements
- 1Co 10:31

Continue to next slide
for questions on prayer

Q: “Pray over us” ...

Is it okay to use it?

Jam 5:13-16

Note that this phrase occurs in v14.

What does it mean here?

“2. Why do people fall down or ‘rest in the spirit’ during prayer?”

“During prayer, some people can experience a manifestation of God that is so strong that it causes them to fall to the ground. Some people may also feel weak in their legs and fall. On other occasions, some people may feel a direct and powerful force like the bright light that hit St Paul on the road to Damascus that caused him to fall to the ground.

“These people who fall to the ground following prayer are ‘resting in the spirit’. While they are resting in the spirit, they can experience a sense of peace and joy or see visions from God. They can also experience an inner healing as the Holy Spirit works to heal their hurts and wounds.

*“These manifestations are all directed by God, hence they may or may not occur during **pray over**. If it does happen, it means that God sees a need for it. If someone does not fall to the ground, then they should not be disappointed because falling to the ground should not be something that we focus on or seek for. Rather, we should focus on God and give Him the full permission to heal us and change us in whatever way He wants.”* <<http://www.thsonline.org/?q=pray-over>>

- What does “pray over” mean here?
- Do you know anywhere in Scripture “pray over” is used as in this web site?
- What does all of this teach us about phrases like this one? **1Th 5:21,22; Acts 17:11**

Q: Scenario: 2 Christian men and 2 Christian women are having a Bible study. One of the men asks one of the women to say the prayer at the end of the study.

The woman says she does not feel comfortable saying the prayer with Christian men present. The man says “It is okay for you to say the prayer because I asked you to.”

The woman did not lead the prayer and was told by the other woman that she should have because she was asked to by the man--“the man gave you permission.”

- *What do you think?*