



The New Don Quixote Times

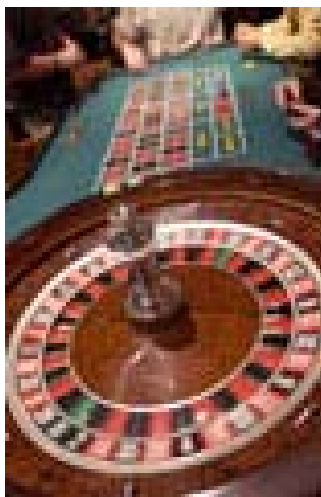
Article 1

"The Musings of a Mad Minister "

- since 2007 -



What's the Big Problem with Gambling?



Recently our governor announced that the state was going to pursue casinos as a means to increase state revenue's...do you think that's a good idea and will it actually be a pure benefit to the people of the commonwealth?

This is not the first time I have had to think about this issue. After hurricane Katrina a group of us from this church went down to Gulfport Mississippi to lend a hand. I got the privilege of working with another minister named Jim. Interestingly, Jim had done his doctoral thesis on the actual effects of introducing gambling to the Gulfport area. Jim explained that overall there is a loss of revenue because of the increased crime, bankruptcies, and traffic in hospitals, etc. Jim explained to me that gambling was a

means for the state to prey or tax the poor while not looking evil.

The next year we sent another team to help with the reconstruction efforts in Mississippi. We worked on a man's house (for the life of me I cannot remember his name) that had almost lost everything because of gambling. He said one day after work he went in with his paycheck just intending to drop a small bet. Well he lost it, realized he could not afford to lose it, and began gambling more to win it back. This is called "chasing" and put this man close to \$ 10,000 in debt after one weekend.

"If our purpose is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever, how does gambling help that?"

For Christians gambling itself is sketchy. On the one hand we believe we have Christian liberty but that liberty is not to pursue anything we want. Ask yourself what are the positives and negatives between you and God as you gamble with his provisions for you. If our purpose is to glorify God and enjoy him forever how does gambling help that? It seems that all it produces is materialism and greed... irrespective of the cheaper hotel room or cheap

buffet food. There is a reason that Las Vegas is called "sin city" and that they advertise that your sins can stay in Vegas.

"If the state needs money, let every state senator, legislator and the governor take a 20% pay cut . . ."

Yet, beyond our faith is the illogic in believing we can help the state by preying on its weakest members. The argument against this is that too much Massachusetts money is flowing into Connecticut because of their legalized gambling. So the moral thing to do is to set up our own casinos to make it easy to tax the poor of our neighboring states along with our own? When did evils become justified because our neighbors do them? If the state needs money let every state senator, legislator and the governor take a 20% pay cut and offer to pay at the highest tax bracket or pass a government employee tax that really impacts them as this stuff impacts us. At that point we will be impressed that they include themselves with their efforts to raise money on all the commonwealths' backs.

-Pastor Broderick