



Bryn Independent Methodist Church

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Gambling Policy Statement

Gambling may be defined as seeking to gain from the uncertain (chance) outcome of an event with little investment of time, talent, effort or money and without regard for the adverse effects on other people.

The vast majority of people who indulge in gambling suffer financial loss. For some, that loss affects their families. For a significant minority, gambling develops into an addiction that destroys lives, is costly to society and can lead to other kinds of anti-social and criminal activity.

For Christians, gambling is in opposition to some of the most fundamental teachings of the bible;

- Gambling is putting our trust in luck or chance for prosperity when the bible commands us to put our trust in God alone. Gambling therefore is in opposition to the first and greatest commandment, "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.*" (Matthew 22:37)
- Gambling offers the prospect of gain at the expense of other people whose loss is proportionately greater than any gain by someone who wins. This is clearly in opposition to the second commandment according to Jesus, "*Love your neighbour as yourself.*" (Matthew 22:39)
- Gambling holds out the prospect of gain with little or no effort on the part of the gambler. This is in opposition to the biblical injunction, "*If a man will not work, he shall not eat.*" (2 Thessalonians 3:10)
- Gambling tends to become habitual even to the point of addiction with some people. This is in opposition to the biblical principle that we should not be enslaved by anyone or anything other than God, "*when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey.*" (Romans 6:16)
- Gambling represents irresponsible stewardship of the property God has entrusted to us.

For these reasons, Bryn Independent Methodist opposes gambling in all its forms and encourages anyone who is addicted to seek help to overcome their habit.