

Question Night – May 2014

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Introduction: Modernism has conquered much of what is called “Christianity.”

A. Modernism rejects the Bible as the inspired, complete word of God.

1. Those who believe it will make careful application of all that they read.

(2 Tim 3:16-17)

2. Was Jesus raised from the dead? Did God work to deliver, preserve and protect His word? **(Mt 24:35)?**

B. Our biggest challenge is found in surrendering our will to God. **(Lk 6:46)**

I. How do you respond to someone when they hear the teaching of the Bible on subjects such as modesty or instrumental music and then say “God does not care about that!”

A. Sometime people say that because they do not “will to do His will.” **(Jn 7:17)**

1. When that happens then truth is not the priority.

2. A person will believe that which his will allows him to believe.

(Jn 5:30, 39-42)

3. If a person’s heart is closed you cannot accomplish what Jesus could not accomplish in His ministry!

B. Some have accepted false standards of determining truth.

1. Many claim to have an innate ability to know what God wants without careful reasoning from scripture.

2. The most common approach is believing that the Holy Spirit operates apart from the written word. What was the test the apostles wanted us to make? **(Gal 1:8; 1 Cor 11:2, 23; 15:3)**

3. Other brethren claim to have found writers who can with the wave of a hand declare certain passages in the Bible as “cultural” that is it only applies to the specific culture addressed. Is the Bible alone sufficient?

4. Often men are influenced by their relationships and have not learned to trust God to lead them. **(Gal 1:10)**

II. Should we use singing groups to edify brethren or to seek to reach the lost?

A. When we view the Bible as complete then we will only stay within that which is written. **(1 Cor 4:6)**

1. The singing of the Bible is for a specific purpose. **(Eph 5:19; Col 3:16)**

a. We "speak", "teach" and “exhort” one another. This involves the teaching of God for each of us. **(Eph 5:18, Col 3:15)**

b. Christians are to sing to each other! "One another" passages use a "reciprocal pronoun" which indicates participation of everyone.

2. We must mean the words we sing! **(Eph 5:19)**

3. When you take all God has said on this subject what should we do? How will we glorify God? **(Col 3:17; Eph 5:19)**

4. When a group of Christians sing to one another from the heart to worship God, then their actions are scriptural. Everyone should have an opportunity to sing.

- B. Should singing be a performance for some to sing and some to hear? (**Eph 5:19**)
1. What about singing groups and the role of women?
 2. What about extending fellowship to denominational groups?

III. Is gambling sinful?

- A. **Gambling** – “to stake money or other thing of value upon an uncertain event; to hazard; to wager.”
1. It is the *deliberate* hazarding of something of value.
 2. The profit is determined by an uncertain event which is *arbitrarily determined*. (Note: The event is not inherent in the activity of gambling, rather it varies.)
 3. One profits at the loss of others who participate, without whose participation there could be no gamble. (In other words he gains all or part of what others lose.)
- B. Risk alone does not constitute gambling.
1. Risk is involved in planting a crop or crossing the street, but these are not gambling!
 2. These risks are not arbitrary and deliberate. Unless you try! (Ex. Movie)
 3. The street-crosser and the farmer would be happy to eliminate risk, but *not the one who seeks those to gamble*.
 4. Do you know of any compulsive crop planters or street-crossers?
- C. What does the Bible authorize as legitimate means of transfer of property?
1. By the principle of labor. (**Eph 4:28; 2 Thess 3:12; Lk 10:7**)
 2. By the principle of exchange (Buying and Selling) (**Mt 13:44-45; Acts 16:14**)
 3. By the principle of love.
 - a. Something is given without expectation of return.
 - b. Those in need (**Eph 4:28; Acts 2:45, 11:29**)
 - c. Receiving an inheritance. (**Lk 15:12**)
 4. By investing and receiving a share of a business. (**Mt 25:27**)
 - a. This is not taking from another but rather participating in the work of others.
 - b. These things are not arbitrary.
- D. Its motivation is covetousness. (**Col 3:5-6**)
1. You gain at the expense of others! One has defined gambling as “mutual stealing.”
 2. In lotteries the victims are out of the way through a broker. It is not as “messy” but there are victims nonetheless. (**1 Tim 6:10**)
- E. The fruits of gambling are well known.
1. There is a direct relation to drinking, theft, suicide, murder, broken homes and neglected children.
 2. The majority of gamblers are in the lowest economic bracket
- F. Can you picture Jesus as a gambler?
1. Would Jesus take advantage of another for money? (**1 Pt 2:21-22**)
 2. Is gambling found in this passage? (**Phil 4:8**)

Conclusion: Let these questions provoke you to a deeper study for yourself!