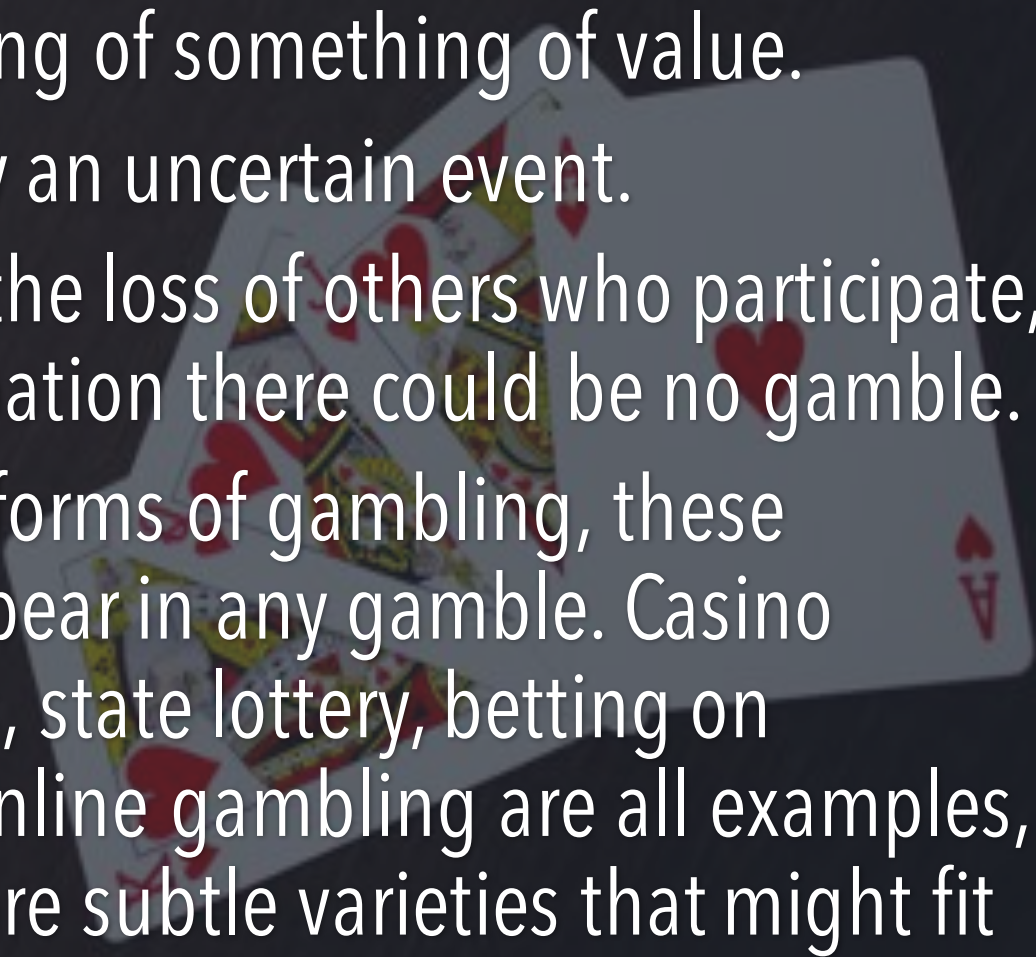


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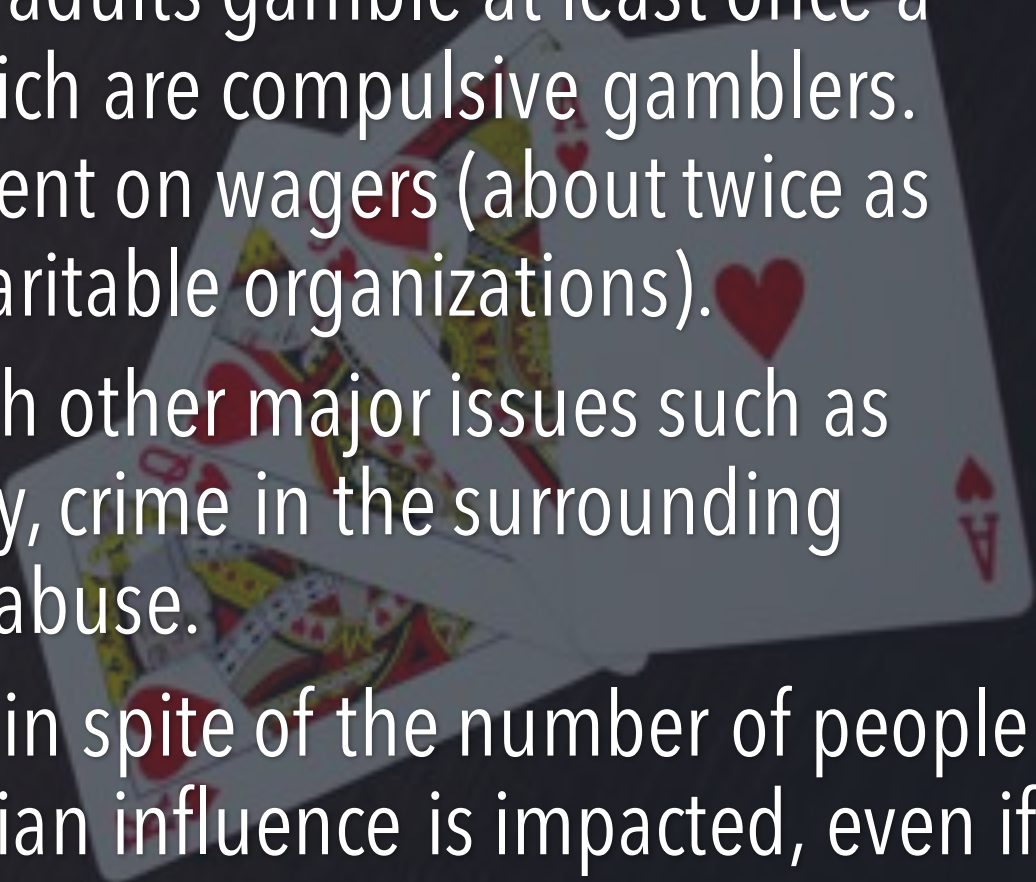
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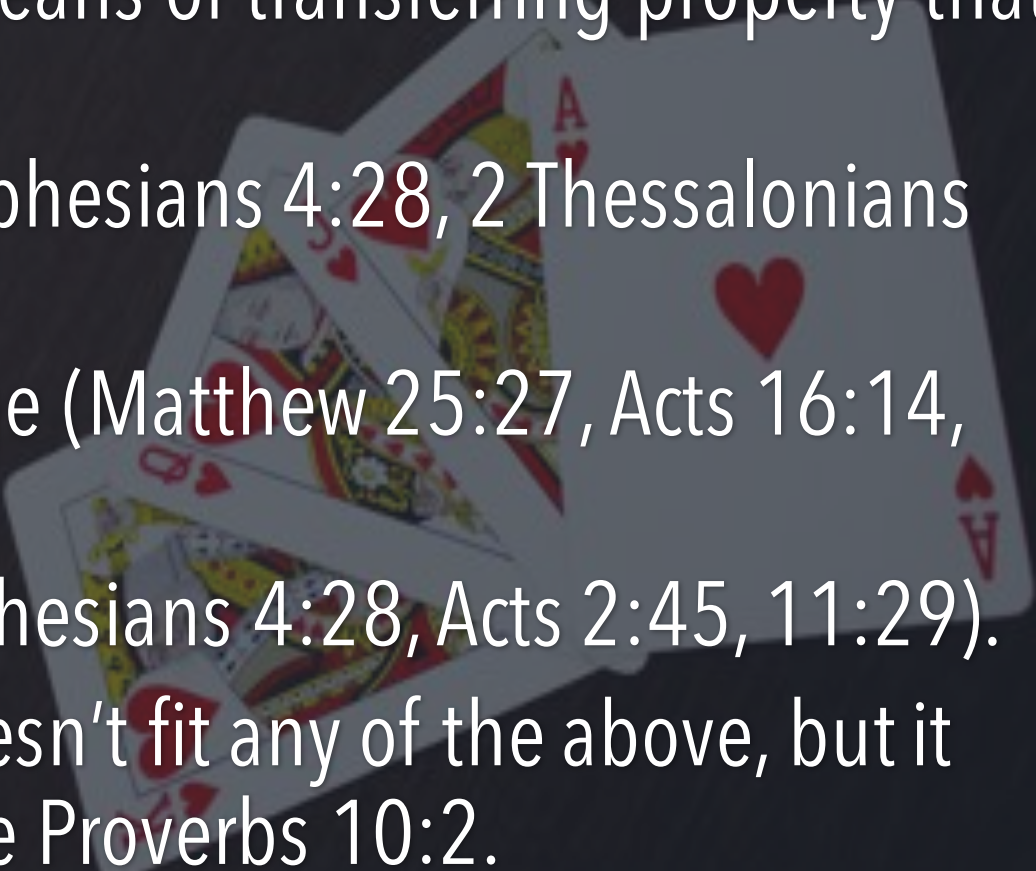
What Is Gambling?

- The deliberate hazarding of something of value.
 - Profit is determined by an uncertain event.
 - One can only profit at the loss of others who participate, without whose participation there could be no gamble.
 - While there are many forms of gambling, these essential elements appear in any gamble. Casino gaming, slot machines, state lottery, betting on sporting events, and online gambling are all examples, but there are other more subtle varieties that might fit the definition.
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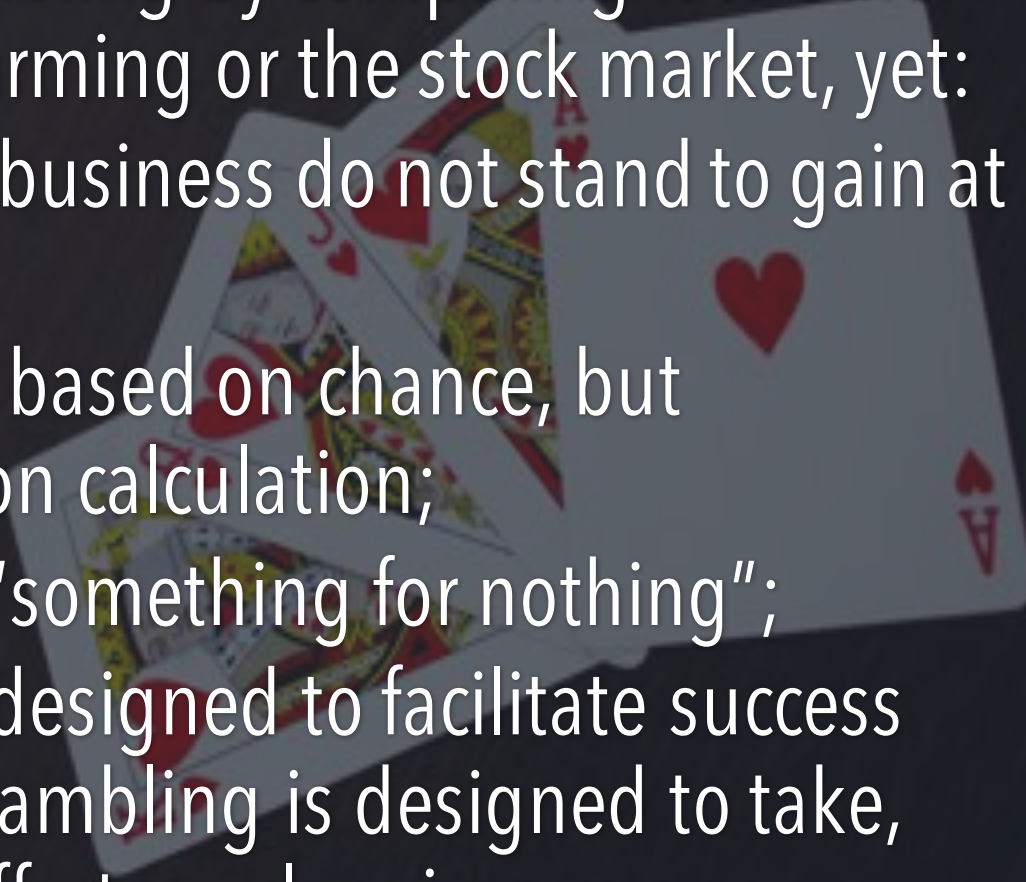
The Obvious Issues...

- Over 80% of American adults gamble at least once a year, 2.5 million of which are compulsive gamblers. \$500 billion/year is spent on wagers (about twice as much as is given to charitable organizations).
 - Gambling is linked with other major issues such as depression, bankruptcy, crime in the surrounding community, and child abuse.
 - Still considered a vice, in spite of the number of people who participate. Christian influence is impacted, even if we do not like to acknowledge or notice it.
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The Transfer of Wealth

- There are only three means of transferring property that God endorses:
 - Principle of labor (Ephesians 4:28, 2 Thessalonians 3:12, Luke 10:7);
 - Principle of exchange (Matthew 25:27, Acts 16:14, Luke 22:36);
 - Principle of love (Ephesians 4:28, Acts 2:45, 11:29).
 - Gambling not only doesn't fit any of the above, but it also violates them! See Proverbs 10:2.
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The Risk Argument

- Many try to justify gambling by comparing it to other "risky" ventures, like farming or the stock market, yet:
 - Legitimate forms of business do not stand to gain at another's loss;
 - They are not wagers based on chance, but investments based on calculation;
 - They do not lead to "something for nothing";
 - They are inherently designed to facilitate success with proper effort. Gambling is designed to take, regardless of skill, effort, or planning.
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The Motive? Greed.

- Beware of covetousness (1 Corinthians 6:10, Romans 13:9, Colossians 3:5, Luke 12:15).
 - Gambling is addictive. Only the naive claim that it is a hobby or a recreational activity. We are to be enslaved to nothing (1 Corinthians 6:12), even things that are lawful.
 - Gambling is an insult to the sentiment of 1 Corinthians 10:24.
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