

Fantasy Football Gambling!

by Wayne Goff

FanDuel and **DraftKings** are two online gambling venues for the fantasy football sports fans. Thousands of sports fans have signed up and played in “fantasy league football” for the sheer enjoyment. Within the last couple of years, **FanDuel** and **DraftKings** have played off that sports’ popularity and have *unashamedly* advertised on national television in an attempt to get more fans to play the game in a gambling manner.

Two customers have now sued the two leading companies, and a tremendous legal chaos will ensue, with about 50 companies affected by the lawsuit.

The lawsuit’s theory is based on a number of issues, but the one I am interested in is the fact that it is “betting on ... games.” Investors have pumped millions of dollars into these two companies in an effort to provide legitimacy to the illegal gambling being done and to attract more bettors, according to the lawsuit.

Gambling Condemned

Nowhere in the Bible does the word “gambling” appear, so many people wonder what is wrong with a little friendly bet or wager, including some Christians.

Gambling is **generally** condemned on the basis of *stealing* or *theft*. So while the word does not appear in the Bible, the **results** of gambling — **stealing** — is soundly condemned therein (Ex. 20:15; Deut. 5:19; Jer. 7:9; Matt. 19:18; Rom. 13:9; etc..

Let me give you another example. Men have also in the past resolved their serious differences by a method called “**the duel**.” In this method, the two disputants each choose their weapon, and by agreement fight it out until one disputant wins, sometimes by the death of the loser. Everyone knows that “dueling” is not found in the Bible, but **murder** is (Ex. 20:13; Num. 35; Deut. 5:17; Lk. 18:20; Rom. 13:9; etc.! When one combatant kills the other one in their duel, then the victor is guilty of murder.

But someone objects that in both the duel and the gambling, each participant has *consented* to the results. However, in each case, **no participant** has the *God-given* right to permit another to steal that which is his, or to permit himself to steal the property of his opponent! Just because two people consent to an action does not justify it in the sight of God.

Another example is the act of **fornication** or **adultery**. Let’s suppose that two consenting adults decide to commit the sinful deed of fornication. Does the fact that they both consented give them permission to do the deed? Not in the eyes of the Lord, Heb. 13:4! Therefore, one cannot consent to stealing (gambling) or murder (dueling) and be innocent before the Lord.

FanDuel

The introductory video to **FanDuel** shows that you can enter a “league” (one-day contest) and spend \$25 with a chance of winning \$5 million in prizes. How does the company come up with the money for the prizes? Obviously from the entry fees, and thus it is *gambling*. It may seem harmless, but in the eyes of the Lord it amounts to *theft* or *stealing* by consent.

DraftKings

DraftKings web site promises more than \$1 billion guaranteed in 2015! It advertises itself as “Daily Fantasy Sports for Cash.” Once again, is this just a benevolent organization wishing to hand out free money?

Absolutely not! In fact, this company says that if you *deposit your money now*, then they will **double** it! Sounds great, doesn’t it? If I *automatically* double my money, then *surely* I will double my winnings too! Thus the *addictive* gambling bug is born, and the sin of covetousness is encouraged. How many gamblers have lost their money, their possessions, or even their lives through the promise of *easy money gained*?

Conclusion

Interestingly, various states have different definitions of what constitutes “gambling,” and so the upcoming lawsuit will probably require months or years to unravel. But from a biblical perspective, this is a sin Christians are to avoid.

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