

## Everything in Moderation

“Everything in moderation.” This is a very common phrase I hear but I do not think most people really believe it. Most people would agree that murder in moderation; adultery in moderation; and rape in moderation are not true statements. But they seem to have no problem with drinking in moderation; gambling in moderation; fornicating in moderation; and lying in moderation. Why? This is certainly not a phrase you would ever hear God or Jesus say. Where is the concept taught in God’s Word that some activities can be good unless you do them too much and then they become a sin?

- Where is it taught that drinking alcohol is a good thing until your blood alcohol level reaches .10 and then it’s wrong?
- Where is it taught that it is a good thing to fornicate as long as it is just with your boyfriend or girlfriend but becomes a sin if you have multiple partners at once?
- Where is it taught that trying to win money you have not honestly worked for is a good thing until you start going into debt with your gambling and then it becomes wrong?
- Where does God’s Word teach that there are different types of lies and some lies are good if you have good intentions?

None of this is taught in God’s Word. Our Heavenly Father wants us to stay as far away from these activities as we possibly can. He does not want us to get as close to them as we can or even participate in them but only in moderation. Does a father encourage his child to get as close to the street as he can as long as he does not go out into it? Does he tell his child that it’s okay to put his hand really close to the hot stove as long as he does not touch it? Of course not. Why would we think our Heavenly Father would want us to participate in activities that only lead to trouble?

What does God’s Word say about alcohol? In Proverbs 20:1 His Word says that alcohol is a mocker and a brawler and whoever drinks it is a fool. Proverbs 23:29-35 talks about the evils of drinking alcohol and verse 31 says we are not to even look at alcohol. Just stay away from it! There is no such thing as “responsible drinking”. That is an oxymoron. We may as well say, “Eat rat poison but only a little.” Alcohol is a poison to the human body.

What does God’s Word say about fornication? I Corinthians 6:18, Galatians 5:19, and a host of other passages command us not to commit fornication at all. Not at all! And yes, America, that includes homosexuality.

Although God’s Word does not specifically say, “Thou shalt not gamble”, all the principles are there. Christians are to work honestly for a living (II Thessalonians 3:10). Christians are to be givers—not takers (Acts 20:35). Christians are to only be involved in activities that are honest, pure, and good (Philippians 4:8). There is nothing honest, pure, and good about gambling. Look at all the broken homes, suicides, and the financially devastated as a direct result of gambling.

Finally, what does God's Word say about lying? Thou shalt not bear false witness (Exodus 20:16)—one of the Ten Commandments! Do not lie to one another (Colossians 3:9). How much plainer can that get? Do not lie—at all—ever!