

## **What about Cards?**

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Regular playing cards are not as innocent as some people would like to believe. The Church has historically taken a stand against the card game; ministers preached against it and big bonfires were built as people burned their playing cards. I often wondered why some Christians had a hang up playing card games with a traditional deck of cards. I used to play cards with my grandmother and never knew anything about the history that was behind cards and what they represented. At one point, I began to do some research on cards by looking at some secular sources and then applied the Biblical commands and principles to what I discovered about cards. In this study, I'd like to share with you what I discovered about the traditional deck of cards. I trust it might be helpful, informative, and help you make a Biblical decision about this matter of playing cards. You might be surprised what you learn in this study.

People ask me, "What really is the difference between playing a game of checkers and a game of cards?" Well, there is an ocean of difference between the two games and I will endeavor to show you why in this study. Others will conclude that "cards" falls into a particular category that the Bible calls "doubtful things" (Rom. 14:1). But this certainly is not the case when looking at the historical background and continued association of cards with the world of the occult. Of course, we should not judge a Christian's spirituality based upon card playing, nor should we compare ourselves with those who do (2 Cor. 10:12), but we shouldn't remain in ignorance about playing with cards and claim that it is simply another "gray area" that does not concern the Christian life.

### **The Suspicion of Cards**

Why has the practice of card playing been held in suspicion by many Christians throughout the centuries? The original deck of cards has a dark side that you might not be aware of as a Christian. In fact, you may have played cards all of your life and never knew what the secret message was behind the deck of cards. *Cards actually come from the world of the occult*

*and are still used for the devil's purposes to this day.* There is a general agreement that cards were created for evil purposes and there is ample historical documentation that they were used for the occult down through the centuries. This is why the deck of cards has always historically been held in suspicion and looked down upon by God-fearing people. Many Christians are only aware of the *association* of cards with gambling, but few are aware of their *occult* connection. Cards have been called "the devil's pack book." As we will see in this study, the Christian has no right or liberty to play around with the original deck of cards, which has been passed down from the world of the occult. I make no apologies for what I have discovered about cards and what I am about to reveal concerning the Christian's need to separate from the deck of cards.

### **The History of Cards**

The Chinese were responsible for creating cards between the 7<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> centuries. Cards are actually known to be in China in 969 A.D. The cards created by the Chinese were used as instruments for performing divination rituals that involved esoteric sacred teaching. Cards arrived in Europe by Marco Polo or other travelers who passed through the Far East. Playing Cards are believed to have arrived in Europe around the 1350's. One of the earliest historical references comes in 1379 (Giovanni de Covelluzzo, City of Viterbo) and not surprisingly it is the form of a prohibition forbidding the use of cards on Sunday or the Sabbath. There are references to cards in Italy in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and other countries by the 14<sup>th</sup> century. It has been recorded that the first deck of cards was made in 1392 for King Charles in France who was an insane man. Of course, it was the Kings, Queens, and Knights dressed in their 16th century English garb which became the standard of the Anglo-American playing cards which we have today.

We know that cards have passed through various changes throughout the centuries of time. Card makers of France simplified the shapes of the card deck as we know it today and divided the card into a two-color (red and black) system for easy identification. England adopted the French designs designating them as spades, hearts, diamonds and clubs. American cards are patterned after the English cards. Today there is a standardization of cards that seems to be accepted.

## Traditional and Tarot Cards

The traditional playing deck of cards actually evolved out of the tarot deck of cards, which has long been used for divination, fortune telling and the world of the occult in general. This is reason enough not to play around with a traditional deck of cards since they maintain their original connection with the work and world of the occult.

Compton's Encyclopedia says:

"Modern playing cards evolved from what is called the tarot deck. The tarot cards originated in Italy."

The Encyclopedia of America says:

"From the tarots of Mantegna evolved the 78 card tarots consisting of four suits of 14 cards each. Each suit has 4 court cards (king, queen, cavalier, and valet) and ten numeral cards (1-10) bearing suits of swords, cups, money, and batons. In addition, the tarot pack includes 22 numbered atouts (high cards or trumps) with various meanings, bearing such symbols as the sun, the pope, justice and death (the 13<sup>th</sup> card). The 22<sup>nd</sup> card; which is unnumbered, is 'il matto' (the fool), precursor to the modern joker. *Many shorter decks evolved from the original 78-card tarot deck*" (emphasis mine).

Many will verify that the ancestors of our modern playing cards of today were imported into Europe by the gypsies. References to tarot cards, out of which the deck of cards was derived, are mentioned in Italy as early as 1299.

The Encyclopedia America says this about cards:

"Early European cards were called tarots (tables of fate) or tarocchi. These were picture cards used for fortune telling or instruction."

The Encyclopedia of Religion said this about cards:

"The two most prominent packs of cards used in Europe for divination are the ordinary pack, consisting of fifty-two cards, and the tarot pack, consisting of seventy-eight cards."

The personal symbolism of the regular deck of cards still has much in common with the spiritual initiation rites and instructions in Hellenistic mystery cults, ancient astrology and medieval alchemy, where the processes of manifestations and divine energies are represented in the progression of visual and numerical symbols. In short, you simply dabble with the devil's invention when you play with the original deck of cards. Cards have been used as a means of finding hidden messages and for telepathic communication.

Cards are still used for the evil purpose that they were originally invented. Today they are used for reading the past, present and future in the lives of people. The more elaborate and larger deck of cards is the tarot deck, which is used for fortune telling where clairvoyant cultists and gypsies use the cards in connection with crystal balls and bowls of water to confirm the reading taken from them.

You can be sure that the fortunetellers are still using cards for what they were originally invented for, when they ask people to cut the card deck into three random piles, by using their left hand. After this, the first card on each pile will be turned over and relay a certain message to the card player. Clairvoyant powers of telepathic communication are connected with cards in the world of the occult. The future of these people is supposedly revealed in the messages of cards. Many claim that their future is ready to sprout, grow, and flower as they use cards to unfold the secrets of the future.

### **The Occult Connection to Cards**

Both tarot and playing cards contain similarities which are not pure coincidence. If you are not familiar with the Tarot, you may be surprised to find that a standard Tarot deck is so similar to a deck of regular playing cards that you could simply remove 25 of the Tarot cards and you will essentially have a deck of playing cards, including the Joker. The playing card deck is almost the same as the Tarot Minor Arcana, but with four cards missing: the Page of each suit. The playing card deck and Tarot share the Knight (Jack), Queen, and King, but Tarot also has a Page. Therefore, there are only 52 playing cards, but 56 in the Minor Arcana. Today the Tarot deck

is solely used for divination, whereas the playing cards are sometimes used for divination but mostly for card games. However, no one can deny the similarities between the two decks and their association with the occult.

The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Mythology, Religion and the Unknown gave this shocking advice about the traditional deck of cards: “The daily practice of taking a single card and meditating on it, thus bringing its meaning to life, is one which is highly recommended.”

The Encyclopedia of Men, Myth and Magic states:

“The symbols on the cards correspond to the archetypal images, the basic factors that lie deep within the collective unconscious of every man. When these living archetypes ‘click’ with their counterparts on the cards, they make themselves known by means of the intuition and speak through the lips of the seer. Destiny is in the hands of the archetypes.”

There can be no mistake about it; cards have their origin in the world of the occult. There is a dark side to cards. They come from the kingdom of Satan and occult magic. Secular sources have verified this as being true. However, today many Christians will attempt to say that cards do not have an evil symbolism attached to them. The fact of the matter is this, cards have always had an evil symbolism since they have historically been linked with tarot cards and the world of the occult. Like Halloween, they have not lost their evil association and connection with wickedness.

We must remember that the Bible says we should shun all of those things that are evil and which clearly associate with the occult world.

Deuteronomy 18:9-12 says:

“When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you *any one* that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, *or* an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things *are* an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.”

Did you catch what God is telling His people? Holy people cannot and should not associate with the evil abominations of pagan people. Cards with their satanic origins and occult connections must not be associated with in any way or fashion because they have been created for wickedness and evil abominations in the occult world. Of course, you may not outwardly practice these occult phenomena, but using the symbols that continue to represent the practices of pagans and promoting occult practices becomes an abomination before the Lord as well. The word “abominations” speaks of things that are detestable in His sight. They speak of things that God utterly hates and what we should hate as God’s people. Yes, we are to detest the practices and legacies of the occult. *The word occult comes from a Latin word which means secret or hidden.* It points to those secret or hidden things revealed through the world of spirits or paranormal phenomena.

“Divination” is the occult practice of receiving hidden information or knowledge from the underworld of spirits and being able to foretell the future of a person’s life or particular events associated with their life. This type of thing is practiced with the deck of cards when a person’s past, present, or future is unfolded before them. A “witch” is a person who practices magic, whether they are a gypsy or some other modern day New Age occult worker. A witch is really a sorcerer. I don’t care what kind of magic they are practicing. Magical practices have historically been connected with the devil.

A “wizard” is literally “a knowing one.” It was a person involved with the occult who claimed to possess supernatural knowledge through communication with the evil world of spirits. Warlocks and wizards are simply another form of the occult, which means to gain secret and hidden knowledge through the world of evil spirits. Those who use cards involve themselves with these types of demonic practices by calling upon the world of evil spirits to help give them the right interpretation of the cards.

All of these occult practices by people were said to be an abomination before God. “For all that do these things *are* an abomination unto the LORD.” These occult people and practices were detestable and disgusting in

God's sight because they looked to the devil for wisdom and guidance instead of to God and promoted the devil's evil agenda in life instead of God's. And this is exactly what the history of cards promotes. It promotes the world of the occult where these types of people depend upon spirit guides to assist them about the future while using cards.

The Black magic of the occult world with its cards, gypsies, witches, wizards and warlocks is an abomination in God's sight. Why then should the Christian promote these very things by playing with a deck of cards that were designed for Satan's agenda and the practice of the occult? This is a fair question. Is God truly pleased with us, as His people, when we use those very things which Satan has strategically used to promote his devilish and occult practices? How can God look upon our lives as Christians today and not be offended because of our negligence and ignorance about the signs of the occult?

When God's people play with cards, they are promoting the pagan rituals of the occult by associating themselves with what the deck of cards has traditionally stood for in the past and present. In one sense, we become a promoter of Satan's occult agenda. Let's stop fooling ourselves. Let's open our hearts to what God is trying to tell us about cards and take our deck of cards and throw them into the wastebasket. Filthy things will always be filthy for they are morally dirty inherently or by creative design and purpose (2 Cor. 6:14-17; Eph. 5:4). Indecent things will always be indecent. They do not magically become acceptable over the years if Satan has created them for his agenda and continues to use them for his kingdom of darkness and evil purposes.

### **Separation from Cards**

The traditional deck of cards by virtue of its creation is deemed unclean and unfit for use in the Christian life. Since this is true, we should seek to dissociate ourselves from the traditional deck of cards.

Ephesians 5:11 says:

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*."

The “unfruitful works of darkness” in the context of this chapter specifically point to those things mentioned in verses 3-4.

Ephesians 5:3-4 says:

“But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.”

Fornication is the unlawful sexual relations between unmarried people. “Uncleanness” speaks of the impurity of a lustful, luxurious, profligate lifestyle. “Covetousness” means a greedy desire to have something that you cannot have. “Filthiness” speaks of those things that are obscene and shameful for Christians to engage in whatever they might be. Webster defines the word “obscene” like this: “offensive to morality or decency; indecent.”

The word filthy or shameful needs to be underscored when we emphasize the history and continued meaning or symbolism of cards. Cards are shameful by design and devilish in their original purpose. Therefore, they are something that should not be associated with in the Christian life. They are not “convenient” (proper or fitting – Eph. 5:4). Cards by virtue of their past and continued use in the occult world become something that is filthy, obscene, shameful, and that which is indecent to associate with and use within the Christian life.

People over the years have periodically asked me about the matter of playing the traditional deck of cards. So, it’s time to talk about cards for a few moments. This may surprise the Christian who is playing solitaire or rummy. Whoever was the original inventor of cards, he evidently had hatred toward the Bible and Jesus Christ. This is because the practices and secrets behind the card games run contrary to the message of the Bible.

Historically, men who were not religious, have always insisted that cards were indecent. This was an established fact throughout history. Down through history people have always looked upon cards with suspicion. The Puritans in the seventeenth century called a deck of cards “The Devil’s Picture Book.” Dr. Talmadge, as great a minister as ever served the

Presbyterian denomination, said that “he would rather have his children play with a nest of rattlesnakes than with a deck of cards.” Of course, this was years ago. Today and for many years the Church and the pulpit have been silent in speaking against card playing. However, cards have not lost their reputation as being part of the occult world; therefore, there still is a call for separation from the traditional deck of cards.

1 Thessalonians 5:22 says:

“Abstain from all appearance (every form) of evil.”

We cannot just overlook such a Bible verse as this and forget about the various forms of evil that surround our lives. We must recognize where Satan is clearly working and has worked, and we must therefore disassociate ourselves from those social vices that are filthy, indecent and devilish in their origin, design, and continued use. The traditional deck of cards is definitely created for the evil and sinister purposes of Satan. Therefore, we should disassociate ourselves from such practices and walk as children of light who no longer associate with the darkness.

Ephesians 5:8 says:

“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light.”

How can a child of light play with a deck of darkness and still radiate light? I have never figured out how a Christian can *knowingly* continue to play cards once they understand the evil past and present use of cards. If we are conscious of our testimony and light that we must allow to shine forth as Christians (Matt. 5:14-16), then by all means, let’s rid ourselves from those things of darkness that Satan is clearly using for His purposes. God has delivered us from the kingdom of darkness and no longer wants us to be associated with it in any fashion or way.

Colossians 1:13

“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son.”

The traditional deck of cards has clearly been linked to the world of the occult and darkness and still maintains these evil connotations and associations with the occult. Therefore, we should consider them as something that is unclean. We are commanded not to touch the “unclean thing” (2 Cor. 6:14) or “filthy” thing (Eph. 5:4) which is unfit or “not convenient” (Eph. 5:4) for the Christian life. Cards are offensive to decency and playing with them demonstrates that you do not have respect for what is right. Furthermore, playing cards, like Halloween, sends your approval or endorsement in some measure upon the world of the occult. Some things are filthy by design and should not be associated with in the Christian life. When something is created for the devil’s purposes, we should accept this fact and steer our lives away from it.

The idea that we can take something that is intrinsically evil and turn it around for God’s glory is simply erroneous and so unbiblical that I should not even have to comment on this matter. Christians are so confused in their thinking today that you must start with the ABC’s of the Bible. So here we go. Right is always right and wrong is always wrong! There is right and there is wrong. When Satan creates something for His evil and sinister purposes and kingdom it is wrong, and we should not associate with it! This is not difficult to understand and apply to your life. There is no such thing as "Christian cards" or "missionary poker."

Psalm 97:10 says:

“Ye that love the LORD, hate evil...”

Romans 12:9 also states:

“...Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.”

But you may say today, Satan uses candles for séances and religious ceremonies in the Catholic Church, which rejects the Gospel. He also uses pool tables and money in gambling halls. He also uses all kinds of instruments for rock music. This must mean that these items are also wrong, and we should not have candles or pool tables in our personal homes or use instruments in our churches. This line of reasoning is simply faulty. *It’s true that Satan can use pool tables, candles and instruments for His purposes, but candles, pool tables and instruments were not directly*

*created for an evil purpose and are “amoral” in their make up or design.* However, this is not the case with such things as Halloween or the traditional deck of cards. These types of things were evidently created for the purposes of the occult world, and this is why they have been historically used in this way down through the centuries and shunned by Christians.

Some things are simply worldly and wrong to associate with because the Bible condemns them either directly through Biblical commands or indirectly through Biblical principles. Such things as fornication, adultery, drugs, rock music, Halloween and cards have been directly used and created by Satan for His own evil agenda in this world. These are the things we must forsake, if we want to be a child of light (Matt. 5:14), and not promote the kingdom of darkness in any way in our lives.

### **Mocking Christ and Christianity with Cards**

It has also long been taught and observed that the traditional deck of cards was also used as a way to mock Jesus Christ and Christian principles of morality and decency. This is no surprise since cards were created for Satan’s kingdom and not God’s kingdom. The *symbolism* and *secret language* of cards will continue to bear evil connotations as long as Satan uses them for His purposes. People who really know the history of cards will verify these findings. Some consider what is stated below as folklore, but it would be no surprise that something which is used for the world of the occult would make a mockery out of Christ and the Bible. Why take a chance to use something which may very well mock Christ and Christianity?

The possible symbolism is stated below.

- The KING card represents the Prince of Darkness - The Devil
- The 10 SPOT speaks of the spirit of lawlessness. It speaks in opposition to the moral law as found in the Ten Commandments in the Bible.
- The CLUB card represents violence and murder.
- The JACK speaks of the loose living man, the lustful man, the licentious individual who only lives to satisfy his lower nature.

- The QUEEN card represents Mary - the mother of our Lord. In the language of the cards, however, Mary is represented as an impure, dissolute, immoral woman.
- There is the JOKER. It represents Jesus Christ.

There is a game in cards today called “brothel” which means a house of prostitution. In this game players will use the secret obscene language as they drop cards representative of such evil connotations and commit acts of prostitution. Then there is the queen card, which represents the Virgin Mary. In the secrets of cards, she is called the mother of harlots, which mocks the Virgin Birth of Christ. The joker in card language represents the Lord Jesus Christ. Joker means fool as opposed to the true king who is Satan. In fact, the language of cards has always been designed to represent that the joker (Jesus) was the offspring of the lustful jack (a man who engages with the prostitutes), and the queen (Mary) which represent the mother of harlots or prostitutes with whom this jack had physical relations.

In other words, this card story tells us that Jesus was born out of an adulterous relationship that Mary had with some jack on the street. If this secret language of cards has any truth to it, and many claim that the cards do represent these things, then we must at once see how absolutely blasphemous cards are in their representation. And some of you wonder why Christians should not play with cards! If all this symbolism is true, then why take a chance to play with something that has mocked Jesus Christ and defames the very essence of Christianity?

The occult history, symbolism, and various secret languages of cards is known by many gamblers but unknown by many Christians. And yet, some Christians, even after reading all of this, will still ignore certain facts and important Bible commands and principles which would steer us away from playing with the traditional deck of cards. Christian friend, we must be careful what we do and condone in our lives. Not everything is decent and okay. There are some clear lines of demarcation that we cannot and should not overlook.

There are holidays such as Halloween and other worldly and satanic symbols, such as a deck of cards, which have kept their evil meanings down

through the years. Therefore, they must be shunned simply because they are evil by design and continue to represent the same type of evil. This means we should forsake them and represent God's holiness by refusing to participate with traditional card games (1 Peter 1:14-16).

When should we practice separation from the culture, customs, symbols, and the observance of certain holidays?

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| ➤ When the culture, customs, symbols, and holidays still represent darkness (Eph. 5:11).                                 |
| ➤ When the culture, customs, symbols, and holidays still represent paganism (Jer. 10:2).                                 |
| ➤ When the culture, customs, symbols, and holidays still represent, evil, unrighteousness and Satanism (2 Cor. 6:14-17). |
| ➤ When the culture, customs, symbols, and holidays still promote worldly behavior (Rom. 12:2).                           |

These commands and Bible principles certainly apply to the traditional deck of cards. Every believer must learn to not associate with those filthy or indecent things of this world system (Rom. 12:2) which are designed by the devil to mock Jesus Christ and promote the Evil One's agenda in the world. This is why cards are always found in bars, places of prostitution, and prisons. They are designed for certain atmospheres and places because of what they represent.

I ask you a fair question. Why would you as a Christian want to associate with cards when you are aware of their historic meaning? And I must repeat what I have already said. There are some things that are just plain down "filthy" or indecent (Eph. 5:4) which have been created by the devil and are used for his own purposes. Ephesians 5:4 says that these types of filthy or indecent things "are not convenient (suitable or appropriate for the Christian life)..." Again, we are commanded to "not touch the unclean thing" (2 Cor. 6:17).

We should refuse to partake of the same evil things that the occult world dabbles with while seeking to fulfill Satan's End Time agenda. Let us as

Christians take an educated and Biblical stand against cards and steer away from associating with them or using them in our households.

We could list many things other than cards which could be deemed as filthy or indecent (Eph. 5:4) to have in our homes such as computer games that are demonic and sexually explicit or DVD's that promote cursing and immodesty. All these things are created for evil purposes and should be shunned by the Christian life.

### **Light versus Darkness and Cards**

Ephesians 5:11 once again states:

“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*.”

God has not called us to promote the darkness but light (holiness and righteousness). We are to be children of light (Eph. 5:8; 1 Thess. 5:5). While participating in such things as cards, dancing, alcohol drinking, long hair on men (1 Cor. 11:15), and such like, we become a promoter of those things that the devil has used for his evil purposes of rebellion, for leading people away from God, and even mocking the God of all glory.

There are movements, men, and many worldly things today that are being promoted by the devil. As a Christian, we must learn to separate from these things on the basis and principles of light and darkness, righteousness and unrighteousness, the temple of God and the temple of Satan and the unequal yoke with those who are participating in these devilish designs.

2 Corinthians 6:14-17

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial (Satan)? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye

separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you.”

This is the basic teaching on Biblical separation which many believers fail to see in these last days of wickedness and perversion. The Bible-believing and Bible-practicing Christian should not attempt to associate themselves with darkness, unrighteousness, or Satan and his demonic idolatrous practices. God has called us to separate from every form of heathen and satanic darkness in our present day and hour, which includes cards, since they are a symbol of the occult. By associating with those things that have historically promoted unrighteousness and darkness among unbelievers, and which continue to do so, we in some measure become linked or tied to the message and movement behind cards and become guilty by association.

God also told his people of old to not copy the ways of the unsaved heathen that surrounded them in relation to their wickedness, worldliness, and worship. When we mimic heathenism, we lose our light!

Deuteronomy 18:9 says:

“When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.”

Jeremiah 10:2 adds:

“Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.”

This Bible principle would apply to the game of the standard deck of cards, which has been used by heathen throughout the centuries to promote Satan’s kingdom. We must learn not to *copy* or *cooperate* with such things that Satan is clearly using to promote his own evil agenda in the world. We must turn on the lights and not represent the darkness!

I think Mrs. Oliver B. Greene (wife of evangelist Oliver B. Green) gave the best advice about cards that I have read in all of my research. She said: “Instead of gathering ourselves around the card table, won’t you come and kneel with me around the Cross of Calvary?”

As Christians, we must focus on the cross and those things that are right, pure, honest, just, lovely and of good report (Philippians 4:8). These are the things we should revolve our life around instead of the things of darkness which Satan is using for His kingdom.

A missionary in Peru told of going one evening to visit a small group of believers. She knew that the house where they were meeting was located on a cliff and that climbing up the pathway would be treacherous. From her own house she took a taxi as far as it could go, and then she began the hazardous ascent to the house. The night was dark and the way was very difficult. As she rounded a bend, she suddenly came upon several believers carrying bright lanterns. They had come out to light the way. Her fears relieved, the missionary ascended the path easily and had a good meeting.

Dear friend, the spiritual night and darkness that surrounds us is very dangerous. Let us learn to not associate ourselves with the darkness of Satan's kingdom in any way – even through playing with the traditional deck of cards. We must carry the lantern that beam forth the light of righteousness and holiness in our present generation, whose moral depravity is moving them farther away from God into the blackness of sin and absolute hopelessness. Let us rid ourselves of all the works of darkness that are penetrating our lives.

Romans 13:12

“The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.”

Casting off the works of darkness means that we should get rid of the traditional deck of cards in our households and refuse to associate with cards in our personal lives as Christians.