

GAMBLING
IS A BAD
BET



Matthew 22:36-40 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

I. GAMBLING VIOLATES BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

- A. While the Bible contains no "thou shalt not" in regard to gambling, it does contain many insights and principles which indicate that gambling is wrong.**
- B. The Bible emphasizes the sovereignty of God in the direction of human events - 1 Timothy 6:17
Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy; gambling looks to chance and luck.**
- C. The Bible calls for careful stewardship; gambling calls for reckless abandon.**

I. GAMBLING VIOLATES BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

- D. The Bible indicates that man is to work creatively and use his possessions for the good of others - Ephesians 4:28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need; gambling fosters a something-for-nothing attitude.**
- E. The Bible condemns covetousness and materialism (Matthew 6:24-34); gambling has both at its heart.**
- F. The moral thrust of the Bible is love for God and neighbor (Matthew 22:37-40); gambling seeks personal gain and pleasure at another person's loss and pain.**

II. GAMBLING WRECKS THE ECONOMY

- A. For the average state, legalized gambling proceeds supply only a tiny fraction of the money needed for operating expenses. State lotteries provide only an average of 2% of the total state revenue. (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1992, 1993)**
- B. Lotteries do not improve conditions of public education. Net lottery proceeds tend to become a substitute for, rather than a supplement to, regular funding for schools. (Borg and Mason, Journal of Education Finance, 1990)**
- C. Legalized gambling is one of the least efficient ways available for gaining revenue. (Bayer, "Are Lotteries a Ripoff?" Consumers ' Research, January 1990)**

II. GAMBLING WRECKS THE ECONOMY

- D. Legalized gambling does not generate new wealth or high-end employment. Jobs created by casino gambling tend to be low-earning positions. ("Gambling Rage: Out of Control?" U.S. News and WorldReport, May 30, 1983)**
- D. Casino and lottery gambling simply redistribute wealth from the many to the wealthy few. They drain money from the local economy, hurting small businesses most. ("A Mixed Blessing for 'America's Ethiopia!'" U.S. News and WorldReport, March 14, 1994)**

III. GAMBLING HARMS SOCIETY

- A. Each problem gambler adversely affects the lives of at least seven to eight other people who are close to him or her. Parents, spouses, brothers, sisters, employers and fellow employees, and of course, children all must deal with the impact of problem gambling. There can be significant social impacts resulting from problem gambling which can generate “hard” economic costs for states, communities and individuals.**

III. GAMBLING HARMS SOCIETY

B. The National Council on Problem Gambling estimates that gambling addiction carries an annual cost of \$7B (billion, with a “b”) as a direct result of crime, bankruptcy and cross-addiction. According to the 2006 California Prevalence Survey, problem gamblers are 3 to 3.5 times as likely to be arrested or spend time in jail, and are 2 to 7 times more likely to smoke, binge drink, take illegal drugs.

III. GAMBLING HARMS SOCIETY

C. Casino and lottery gambling take a higher toll on lower-income people. State lotteries are a regressive form of taxation. Lower-income groups bet three times more on a regular basis than do more affluent groups. (Gambling in America: Final Report of the Commission on the Review of the National Policy Toward Gambling, Washington: Government Printing Office, 1976)

III. GAMBLING HARMS SOCIETY

D. Other impacts on society include:

- 1. Domestic violence, neglect of children and family and senior abuse**
- 2. Relationship break-ups / divorce.**
- 3. Job loss, unemployment**
- 4. Debt, bankruptcy**
- 5. Embezzlement, fraud, check forgery**
- 6. Eviction, forced home sales or foreclosure**
- 7. Crime, arrest, incarceration**
- 8. Poor physical and mental health**
- 9. Suicide**

IV. GAMBLING PERVERTS THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

- A. States must accept the responsibility for compulsive gamblers, their dependent families and chronic adolescent gamblers?**
- B. The proper role of government is to protect and enhance its peoples' lives. A lottery makes the state a predator of its people, especially the poorest and most vulnerable.**
- C. If we gamble with the future of our children and our state — we will lose.**

V. GAMBLING IS ADDICTIVE IN NATURE

- A. The effect from gambling for a problem gambler is comparable to someone taking a tranquilizer, a drug, or having a drink. The sensation experienced is similar, although no substance is ingested. The gambling behavior alters the person's mood and state of mind. The gambler is hooked and keeps repeating the behavior, attempting to achieve that same effect.**
- B. Like in other addictions to drugs or alcohol, the person starts developing a tolerance. An increasing amount of substance is necessary. The gambler escalates in the gambling experience to achieve the same emotional effect as before.**
- C. The gambler becomes trapped in a vicious circle in which there is an increased craving for the activity. At the same time, the ability to resist drops. The craving grows in intensity and frequency. The cause of a problem gambler problem is his/her inability to control the gambling.**

V. GAMBLING IS ADDICTIVE IN NATURE

- D. Research indicates that a significant number of kids have gambled before their 18th birthday. Increased accessibility to betting and gambling allows children and youth to participate in some form of gambling (Internet gambling, betting on sports, slot machines...). It is generally accepted that children may be more likely to develop problems related to gambling than adults.
- E. 1 Corinthians 6:12 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.
- F. 1 Corinthians 10:23-24 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify. ²⁴ Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's *well-being*.

VI. INTERNET GAMBLING.

- A. A powerful pressure campaign out of Washington led by special interests is leading the push to make casino gambling available 24/7 on cellphones and computers, with three states already authorizing it. Recently, a study noted that ten additional states including Louisiana are considering bills to legalize or expand Internet gambling this year.**
- B. In Louisiana, whoever commits the crime of gambling by computer shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars, or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.**
- C. Obviously enforcement is difficult and not likely so it will continue to spread even in Louisiana**

ARE YOU GAMBLING?

- A. Don't fall for Satan's trap of gambling.**
- B. He wants to destroy your life so you will turn away from God.**
- C. Satan loves anything that is addictive. Like all sin, if he can get you started, that is the first step to addiction.**
- D. Don't gamble with your salvation.**
- E. God wants you to turn from your addiction to sin and wash away your sins in baptism.**
- E. God wants you as a Christian to walk in the light so the blood of Jesus will continually cleanse you of your sin.**

TONIGHT'S SERMON: LORD HELP US!

