

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE



Sunday Morning, February 14, 2024 » Pastor Josiah Kagin

Message Title: Bible Principles and Gambling

Message Text: 1 Timothy 6:6-12

Introduction:

Gambling is a growing problem in our country. Recently, a record number of people gambled on the Super Bowl. According to the American Gaming Association, 67.8 million people gambled \$23.1 billion on the game's outcome. That's 44% higher than the previous record of \$16 billion placed by 50.4 million people set in 2023. 26% of Americans wagered money on the game making for a 35% increase in the number of U.S. gamblers. With the growth of gambling in our culture, we should pause and consider what God's Word has to say about it. While you will not find a Bible verse that says "Thou shalt not gamble," we can study Biblical principles that give us clear divine guidance.

GAMBLING takes place when something of material value, typically money, is risked with the possibility of winning more on an event with an uncertain outcome. Whether betting on a sporting event, playing a card game such as poker, buying a lottery ticket, or spinning a roulette wheel, one thing is certain: when it comes to gambling, the outcome is at least partly decided by *chance*. —Clinton and Scalise

1. _____ Your Neighbor as Yourself

1 John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

1 John 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

John 13:34–35 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Galatians 5:13–14 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

QUESTION: Does gaining off of another persons loss and pain demonstrate the love of God?

scan for
sermon notes



Romans 13:10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

2. Work So You Can _____ and _____

Genesis 2:15 And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

Genesis 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

2 Thessalonians 3:10–12 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. 11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. 12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

Ephesians 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

NOTE — A person who is not willing to give from what they have now will not be willing to give from what they might have in the future.

3. Trust in the _____ and not in _____

Proverbs 3:5–6 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; And lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, And he shall direct thy paths.

Psalms 37:3–5 Trust in the Lord, and do good; So shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. 4 Delight thyself also in the Lord; And he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. 5 Commit thy way unto the Lord; Trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

Lamentations 3:22–23 It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.

CHANGES OF WINNING THE LOTTERY: More than a third of Americans believe that winning the lottery is the only way they will ever retire comfortably. The odds of winning either the Powerball or Mega Millions are roughly one in 292.2 million and one in 302.5 million, respectively. —www.thebalancemoney.com

NOTE — Whenever we put our trust in something other than the Lord, we will be led away from our relationship with God.

QUOTE: Satan will more likely be successful in using financial temptations told her you were away from your commitment to the Lord. —Paul Chappell, *Living in God's Economy*

1 Timothy 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

4. Serve The _____ not _____

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

DEFINITION—MAMMON: wealth; (Aramaic) an abundance of material possessions and resources.

1 Timothy 6:9–10 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

DEFINITION—SNARE: *trap*

QUOTE — Gambling has been found to have a druglike effect on the brain very similar to that of cocaine or morphine, impacting the prefrontal cortex as well as the blood flow to the brain. —Clinton and Scalise

Joshua 24:15as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

5. Live by _____ and not in _____

NOTE — Sin always thrives in the shadows.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Romans 14:22–23 Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. 23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

Philippians 1:10–11 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; 11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

DEFINITION—APPROVE: to judge to be right or commendable; think well of.

NOTE — Living life by faith will lead us away from doubtful living to confident living in the person, principles and promises of God.

6. _____ is always enough, but _____ is never enough

Ecclesiastes 5:10 He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.

NOTE — Suicide rates among problem gamblers are 15x higher than the general population. —quitgamble.com

NOTE — Anything other than Christ will leave dissatisfied.

Philippians 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

7. Godliness with Contentment is Great

NOTE — Gamblers don't gain, they lose. One study showed that problem gamblers estimated losing a median of \$16,750 per year. In California, the average gambler calling the gambling hotline spent \$46,000 per year on gambling in 2020. At-risk gamblers lose around \$3,000 annually, while recreational gamblers lose about \$500 annually. — quitgamble.com

1 Timothy 6:6–12 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. 9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. 12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

DEFINITION—GAIN: expedient; a means to an end; especially a financial one.

Conclusion

What other principles of Scripture can you think of to add to this list?



Grace Baptist Church • 2901 Galewood St. • Kettering, OH. 45420
gracebaptistofkettering.org • 937.293.7500 • Pastor Josiah Kagin