

What Does The Bible Say About Gambling?

“And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”

KJV Luke 12:15

“He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.”

Proverbs 28:22

“Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.”

Prov 13:11

“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.”

1 Tim 6:9

“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.”

1 Tim 6:10

GAMBLING

- The Old and New Testaments cite a number of instances where casting of lots was used:
- Casting of lots was used as a primitive method of seeking divine guidance or direction

Jonah- Jonah 1:7

Replacement for Judas - Acts 1:26

- Casting of Lots was also a form of gambling
- Soldiers gambled for Jesus’ robe

Matthew 27:35, Mark 15:24, Ps 22:18



AFTER PENTECOST

- After the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, on the day of Pentecost, casting of lots is not mentioned as a method of the New Testament Church. However, the “love of money” and “lust of things” was clearly condemned by Jesus and the Apostles.

THE SPIRIT BEHIND GAMBLING

“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.” Matthew 6:24

- Mammon-wealth ie. avarice
- Avarice- Insatiable greed for riches: Inordinate miserly desire to gain and hoard wealth

“And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him. And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.” Luke 16:14-15

- Covet-to desire wrongfully, inordinately and without due regard for the rights of others.
- Greedy-excessively or inordinately desirous of wealth, profit, etc.

THE GAMBLING INDUSTRY

Gambling is not specifically listed as a sin in the scriptures, but due to its foundation in covetousness, greed, and “games of chance,” it is forbidden and sinful.

- The gambling industry has invested heavily in college and professional sports. (Over 40 states in the U.S. have legalized sports betting.) Slot machines are located in almost every restaurant.
- 6.8 billion dollars was bet on the Super Bowl-95% illegally
- 38% of problem gamblers are perpetrators of violence with their intimate partners.
- 3-4 times the risk of suicide
- 1 in 2 problem gamblers have sold their possessions to pay gambling debts
- 46% of severe gamblers have resorted to stealing to finance their habit
- Gambling interferes with relationships, parenting, education, and work
- 35% are excessive drinkers of alcohol
- 21% use drugs to stimulate themselves
- 77% are depressed in some fashion.
- Many gamblers describe a “thrill,” an addictive drive, or feeling while engaged
- Most gamblers can’t stop and will lose all the money they have won.

Take Away Questions

1. Why is it difficult for gamblers to admit that they need help?
2. How can a person receive deliverance from gambling?