

What Does the Bible Teach About Playing the Lottery?



Definitions

Gambling - “To play a game for money or other stakes, to hazard or wager money or other valuables on the outcome of an uncertain event” (Webster's New International Dictionary)

Lottery - “A contest in which tokens are distributed or sold, the winning token being secretly predetermined or ultimately selected in a chance drawing” (Webster's New College Dictionary)

Pennsylvania Lottery

“The Pennsylvania Lottery was established on August 26, 1971, by Title 91. Proceeds provide property tax relief for the elderly, rent rebates and free and reduced-fare transit for older Pennsylvanians and reduced vehicle registration fees, a co-pay prescription drug program, the Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly (PACE), and allocates funding for Area Agencies on Aging services, as well. The Pennsylvania Lottery is the only state lottery that exclusively targets its proceeds to benefit older citizens.”

(www.palottery.state.pa.us)

PA Lottery Facts

Total spent on PA lottery tickets in 2003
- \$2,144,000,000

Nearly \$200 for every man, woman and child in the state

Financial breakdown of Lottery

- Prizes - 53%**
- Benefits - 37%**
- Vendors' profits - 8%**
- Overhead - 2%**

By 2018, benefits were down to 25%

FL Lottery Facts

“With the goal of the Florida Lottery being to enhance public education in the state, in the 2011-12 fiscal year, the Florida Lottery donated \$1.31 billion to the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund, surpassing the \$1 billion mark for the eleventh time in its history and expanding its all-time donation total to over \$25 billion. The law stipulated that 50% go to prizes, 38% go to education, and the remaining 12% used for lottery administration and promotion. Within a few years, the legislature began to subvert the original intent. In the state budget, they began to use lottery money designated to pay for education operating costs and salaries, shifting it to pet projects and non-educational spending. Lottery funding of education is now less than 8%.” (Wikipedia)

FL Lottery Facts

This has been the case with every lottery in every state that has a lottery. It is a state sanctioned con game that takes money from people who can least afford it; it is a tax on people who are bad at math.

“Play responsibly”? It is not possible for a Christian to do so.

God's Laws Of Exchange

God has decreed that humankind should prosper in only seven ways:

– Honest labor

- Eph. 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.”

– A gift

- Matt. 7:11 - “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”

God's Laws Of Exchange

God has decreed that humankind should prosper in only seven ways:

– Discovery of unclaimed property

- **Matt. 13:44 - “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”**

– Benevolence

- **Acts 2:44-45 - “Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.”**

God's Laws Of Exchange

God has decreed that humankind should prosper in only seven ways:

- Honest barter, business or exchange**
 - **James 4:13 - “Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit’”**
- Prudent investment**
 - **Matt. 25:27 - “So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.”**

God's Laws Of Exchange

God has decreed that humankind should prosper in only seven ways:

– Inheritance or reward

- Rom. 8:16-17 - “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together”**

These are the only means spoken of favorably in God's word. The lottery and gambling is not among them.

12 Reasons Why The Lottery Is A Sin

1) It is a work of the flesh

- Gal. 5:19-21 - “Jealousy, selfish ambition, envy”
- 1Cor. 6:9-10 - “Covetous”

2) It involves idolatry

- Eph. 5:5 - “For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.”

12 Reasons Why The Lottery Is A Sin

3) It involves covetousness

- 1John 2:15-17 - “Things of this world... lust of the flesh, lust of the eye, and the pride of life”

4) It is stealing by consent

- Eph. 4:28 - “Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good...”

5) It violates God's command to work

- 2Thes. 3:10 - “For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.”

12 Reasons Why The Lottery Is A Sin

6) It bears evil fruit

- **Matt. 7:16-20 - “You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? 17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”**

12 Reasons Why The Lottery Is A Sin

7) It can enslave the participant

- 1Cor. 9:27 - “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”
- 1Cor. 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.”

8) It violates the Golden Rule

- Matt. 7:12 - “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them”

12 Reasons Why The Lottery Is A Sin

9) It opposes the nature of love

- 1Cor. 13:4-7 - “...love does not envy; ... does not seek its own, ... does not rejoice in iniquity”

10) It shows distrust in God's promise to care for us

- Matt. 6:33 - “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

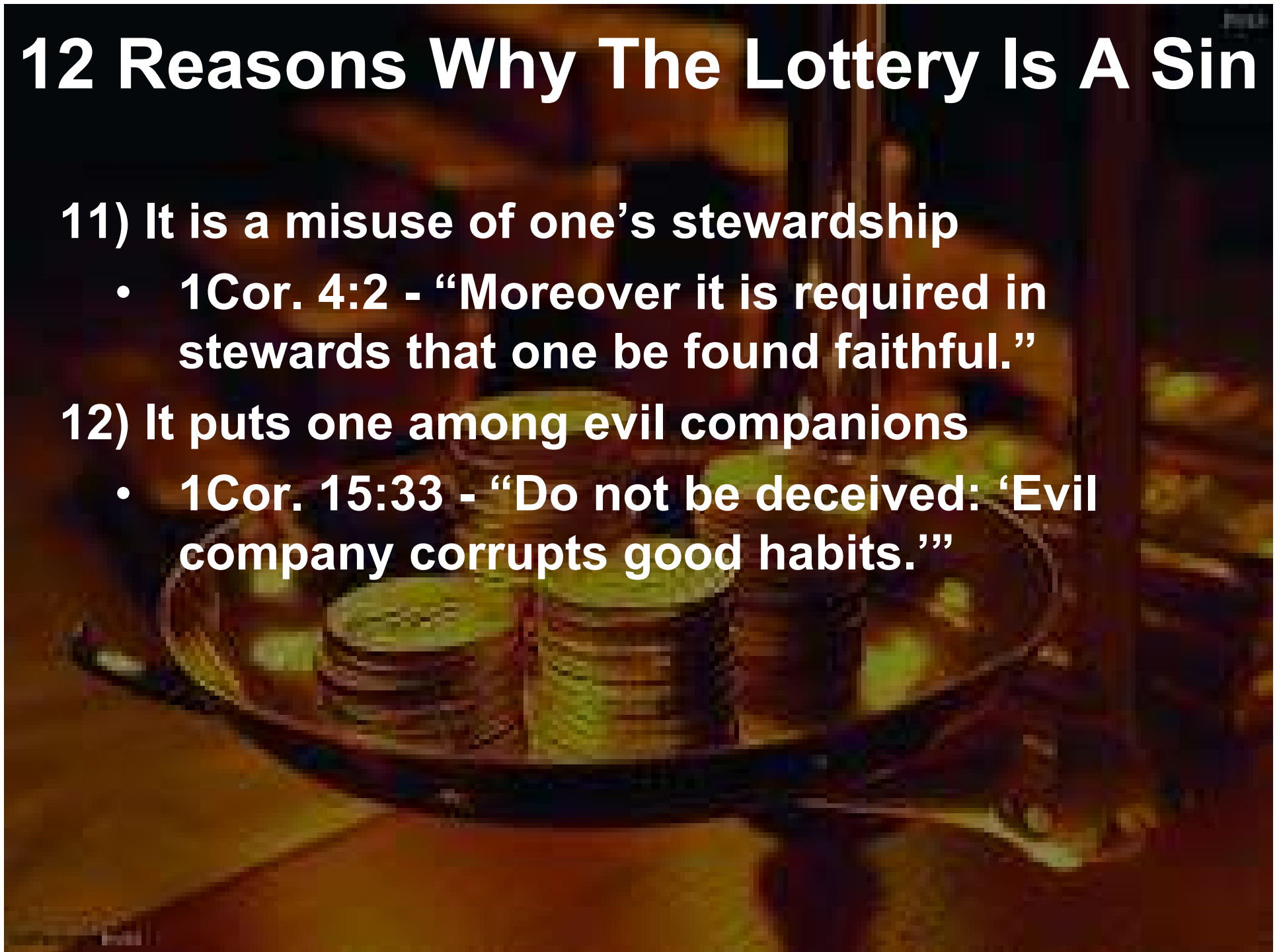
12 Reasons Why The Lottery Is A Sin

11) It is a misuse of one's stewardship

- **1Cor. 4:2 - "Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful."**

12) It puts one among evil companions

- **1Cor. 15:33 - "Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits.'"**



Answering Excuses

"Life is a gamble."

"I just don't see the harm."

"It's money I can afford to lose."

"Proceeds are used for a good cause."

"It's legal."

"Nearly everyone does it."

"I only spend small amounts on the lottery."

"I just like a little excitement to make life interesting."

The Lottery Is A Sin, Whether \$50 Or 50¢.

You cannot play the lottery without:

- Covetousness (a sin)**
- Envy (a sin)**
- Wanting your fellow players to lose their money to you (a violation of the command to love your neighbor)**
- Wagers, risks, and stakes (violations of the principle of stewardship)**

What Does The Bible Teach As Good For Humankind?

Ecc. 5:18, 20 - “Here is what I have seen: It is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it is his heritage... 20 For he will not dwell unduly on the days of his life, because God keeps him busy with the joy of his heart.”