

5. Gambling violates at least 5 principles of scripture:
- i) Sovereignty of God  
*Belief in luck and belief in a sovereign God are mutually exclusive, for since an omniscient, omnipotent Creator God exists then luck makes no sense.*
  - ii) Stewardship  
*Gambling can undermine the foundations of Christian stewardship – work, rationality, and responsibility.*
  - iii) Covetousness  
*Gambling feeds covetousness, the opposite of God’s call for contentment (Phil 4:11-12). It masquerades as harmless fun while it eventually sucks the dollars and sometimes the life out of those who embrace it (1 Tim 6:6-10). The goal of gambling is the selfish desire to get something for nothing.*
  - iv) Love Thy Neighbor  
*Gambling creates a condition in which one person’s gain is necessarily many other person’s loss. As such, gambling militates against brotherly love, justice and mercy (Mt 22:37-40; Mic 6:8). Gambling substitutes love of self or love of money for love of neighbor (Rom 14:21; 15:1; 1 Tim 6:6-10).*
  - v) Mastery of the Will - Idolatry  
*Gambling is potentially habitual, what Pascal called a “fatal fascination,” like a moth’s fascination for the candle. Some even label the problem an addiction. Yet God makes it clear in His Word that Christians are not to allow their minds or bodies to be mastered by anything other than the Holy Spirit of God (1 Cor 6:12). Anything else leads to idolatry.*