



An initiative of WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Football Is Back!

If you're a football enthusiast, you already know what time it is. Fall is one of the most exciting times of the year around our office. Between NFL, college, and high school football, we always have something to talk about. It comes with new hopes, new possibilities, and the excitement of cheering on your favorite team.

Sadly, the beginning of the football season also means increased sports gambling. It continues to grow in the culture and the church as well. [Sports betting posted a new record of \\$11B in 2023 revenue.](#) [According to Pew Research](#), 19% of U.S. adults say they have bet money on sports in the past year. In light of these numbers, it is likely we have at least one person in our church struggling with sports gambling. [The most likely person to be involved in sports gambling is a male under the age of 45.](#) Sports gambling has taken a toll on families with increased debt, higher credit card balances, credit scores that have dropped, and higher amounts of bankruptcy.

Pastors, what can you do to help?

1. Speak out about the dangers of sports betting to your congregation.
2. Empower men to see the importance of leading their families well. Disciple them with the truth of God's Word to lay down their lives and not give into what could be a harmful addiction.
3. Perhaps God is stirring your heart to start an addictions ministry that includes gambling. One ministry to consider partnering with is [Chance to Change](#).
4. Pray that God would open hearts and eyes to the dangers of sports gambling and that those addicted would find healing and freedom through the cross of Christ.

The church is still relevant, and people need to be set free from many bondages. Whether it's gambling or some other vice, God's Word preached by faithful pastors like you can greatly impact setting people free.

For the gospel,



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P.S. Don't miss out on our webinar with Dr. Al Mohler on September 11 at noon. Dr. Mohler will be discussing Christian engagement in the political season. You can sign up for our free Lunch With a Purpose [by clicking here](#).

P.P.S. If you would like a copy of Erwin Lutzer's book, "*Christians, Politics, and the Cross*," please let us know. We would be happy to send you one for free.