

THE PROBLEM AND EFFECTS OF PORNOGRAPHY
THE DANGERS AND DELIVERANCE

Ps 119:37

2012 MEN'S CONFERENCE

INTRODUCTION: Words associated with pornography – **PORNIFICATION OF AMERICAN CULTURE**

- ◆ Erosion of confidence
- ◆ Lonely
- ◆ Immaturity
- ◆ Self-Centeredness
- ◆ Progression in wrong direction
- ◆ Deception
- ◆ Private/Secrecy
- ◆ Abuse
- ◆ Distance
- ◆ Insecurity
- ◆ Dangerous Leanings

A New York Times columnist, Pamela Paul, observed, *“It is easier to get pornography than to avoid it. We have protected the rights of those who wish to live in a pornifest culture while altogether ignoring the interests of those who do not.”*

MY APPROACH

Jesus actively engaged the people of His culture, even those considered sexually immoral: a sinful woman (**Luke 7:36-50**); woman at the well (**John 4:13-26**); woman caught in adultery (**John 8:3-11**).

Our ***approach*** and ***mission*** must reflect the same as Jesus', seeking and saving the lost. People must know us as those who love people toward God and not those who hate people with sins and challenges.

Who will love them if Christians decide not to?

We Are Here to Offer Help

Often, the best the church offers porn addicts is the command to turn off their computer and modify their behavior.

1. **Who will love the porn addict in the pew?**
2. **Who will disciple them into true spiritual victory?**

3. Will churches be willing to put in the long, difficult hours that are sometimes necessary to see deliverance?

(We are offering a class that we teach at FBCW in order to help.)

Gene McConnell (powertochange.com) speaks on campuses about the dangers of pornography. He is a recovering porn addict who saw porn for the first time at age 12. The cost of his addiction was great, including his marriage and ministry.

He had this to say about inadequate solutions, *“I believe pornography exists because we have a need for it. The reason porn exists is that we live empty lives. The issue is intimacy, our greatest need.”*

(Reference CD’s on Intimacy). Take that as ‘inta-me-see,’ you see my life and see who I am, and you love me. That’s the greatest need, male and female. But it’s also the greatest fear, that if you know the real me, if you see my weaknesses, then you would abandon me.”

Jesus was attractive to socially marginalized unbelievers and believers alike. He knows what we must remember, people are looking for hope. Jesus offered hope for sexual and spiritual bondage. He came to free people from the power and presence of sin.

CAUSES AND SYMPTOMS

CAUSES

SYMPTOMS

Dysfunctional families	Accessibility to pornography
Sexual abuse	Acceptance as normal (sexual deviance)
Sinful nature of people	Increasing divorce rates

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

The church holds and proclaims the truth of the gospel; and the gospel, and only the gospel, permanently fills the void that porn temporarily occupies.

2 Corinthians 3:18, “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

◆ **Knowing God**

◆ **Loving God**

◆ **Trusting God**

◆ **Obeying God**

One man that was addicted for years was asked how he changed?

◆ **A healthy fear of the Lord**

◆ **Surrounded himself with good friends he could be honest with**

◆ **Became more afraid of passing things down to his kids than being honest and dealing with his own stuff**

◆ **Sin you don't deal with, you can be sure your kids will**

COMPASSIONATE CONCERN

Please come out of hiding; Jesus stands ready and available to help and heal. We are not here to make anyone feel condemned and stay hidden (private).

I know I cannot control what others think and perceive, yet is our desire for men caught in any sin or bondage to feel like they can risk "*coming out.*"

John 10:10, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

PORNOGRAPHY'S DAMAGE AND DANGERS

1. **Steal your freedom.** (joy, peace, liberty)

Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."

Romans 8:8, "So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God."

2. **Erosion of self-worth**

3. Can't give

4. Progression

Romans 6:19, "I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness."

5. Violates

2 Corinthians 1:12, "For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you."

It takes you places you would not have gone

6. It affects others

(Especially children)

FACTS ARE OUR FRIENDS

1. 12% of the websites on the internet are pornographic; that's 24,664,172

**2. Every second \$3,075.64 is being spent on pornography.
Every second 28,258 internet users are viewing porn.**

3. 40 million Americans are regular visitors to porn sites.

- 1 in 3 viewers are women**
- 70% are men aged 18-24 who visit porn sites in a typical month**

4. In the U.S., internet porn peddlers earn \$2.84 billion per year; worldwide industry is \$4.9 billion.

NOTE: This is internet porn only; U.S. spends \$13.6 billion in all sales of pornography and \$100 billion worldwide.

5. 8% of all emails (2.5 billion per day) are pornographic

6. 25% of all search engine requests are pornography related; 68 million a day

7. 35% of all internet downloads are pornographic

8. Top pornographic search items:

Sex – 75 million

Adult dating – 30 million

Porn – 23 million

Elmhurst, Illinois, is the #1 city in the U.S. to search for sex, porn, and xxx

9. Utah has the nation’s highest online porn subscription rate per thousand home broadband users: 5.47

10. 34% of internet users have experienced unwanted exposure to porn either through pop-up ads, misdirected links, or emails.

11. There are 116,000 searches for “child pornography” every day.

12. 20% of men admit to watching porn online at work.

13% of women admit to watching porn online at work
(average porn site visit lasts 6 minutes and 29 seconds)

13. Average age at which a child first sees porn online is 11.

14. The least popular day of the year for viewing porn is Thanksgiving.

The most popular day of the week for viewing porn is Sunday.

Most Pastors know pornography’s poisonous effects.

When asked to estimate the % of men in their congregations who view pornography on a weekly basis, 43% are unable or unwilling to respond. Of those who did:

- **64% said about 10% of their men**
- **24% said about 10-24% of their men**
- **10% said about 25-49% of their men**
- **4% said about 50% or more**

THE EFFECTS OF PORNOGRAPHY

Bob MeHaffey, Jerry White, Cheryl Laurenza

- 1. Erosion of self-confidence and self-worth** – many men or women who are in the bondage of pornography deal with large amounts of shame because of their sin and its continual grip on them leading to self-condemnation.
- 2. Hiding and feeling alone** – although pornography is beginning to be talked about more and dealt with in the context of the church, many men and women continue to hide these sins which leads to compartmentalization and isolation (even if just emotionally and not physically.) This continues to affirm lies such as “I can never be truly loved/accepted because of my sin, either with God or others.”
- 3. Emotional and relational immaturity** – just like alcohol, drugs, or any other substance addiction, pornography can stunt the personality development process. Many men and women rely on pornography to meet their emotional need for comfort instead of in relationships, leaving them with an unmet need (since pornography can’t give them what they truly desire). Therefore, many are left at a teenage or pre-teen maturity level because their unmet need(s) from childhood remains.
- 4. Unhealthy view and expectation of sex** – many men come into marriage with a view of sex that is self-centered and self-gratifying because of what they have viewed in pornographic sexual encounters. This can put pressure on the spouse to “act out” what is seen in order to “measure up” and therefore takes God’s perfect plan and reduces it to an “act.” Women who have “sexualized” their marital relationship may never really “know” their spouses as they have relied on the physical instead, perhaps fearing intimacy. Many have been victims of sexual abuse themselves and often marry sex addicts unaware.
- 5. Continued temptation to go further** – just like marijuana is seen as a “gateway drug” to other more harmful substances, pornography opens the door to other risky behaviors. Pornography itself can progress from scantily clad women to images of actual sex, to increasingly darker areas. Many who are completely ensnared by pornography end up having sex with other people or even becoming in trouble with the law because of their sexual behaviors. Also needing mention is pornography’s sidekick – masturbation according to Josh McDowell in “The Bare Facts.” “*Masturbation is sex without intimacy, grounded in lust, and hinting.*” This and other sexual issues are epidemic in our preteens and teens, yes even, if not especially in the church.
- 6. Secrecy and Deception** – needed to continue in the use or addiction help further damage the marital oneness, their relationship with God, as well as further damages their self concept. This can involve but is not limited to: hurt, pain, violation, mistrust of the offending spouse – pornography addiction, just like other addictions, causes a rupture in the relationship. Spouses can often feel shocked, cheated on, and unable to trust the husband or wife in this area, as well as other areas of life. Because many people hide pornography use from their spouse, it creates a

false sense of security in the relationship. Once the truth comes out, the spouse might be left wondering what, if anything has been real about their relationship.

7. **Abuse** – some studies have revealed a correlation between pornography use and increased sexual aggressiveness.