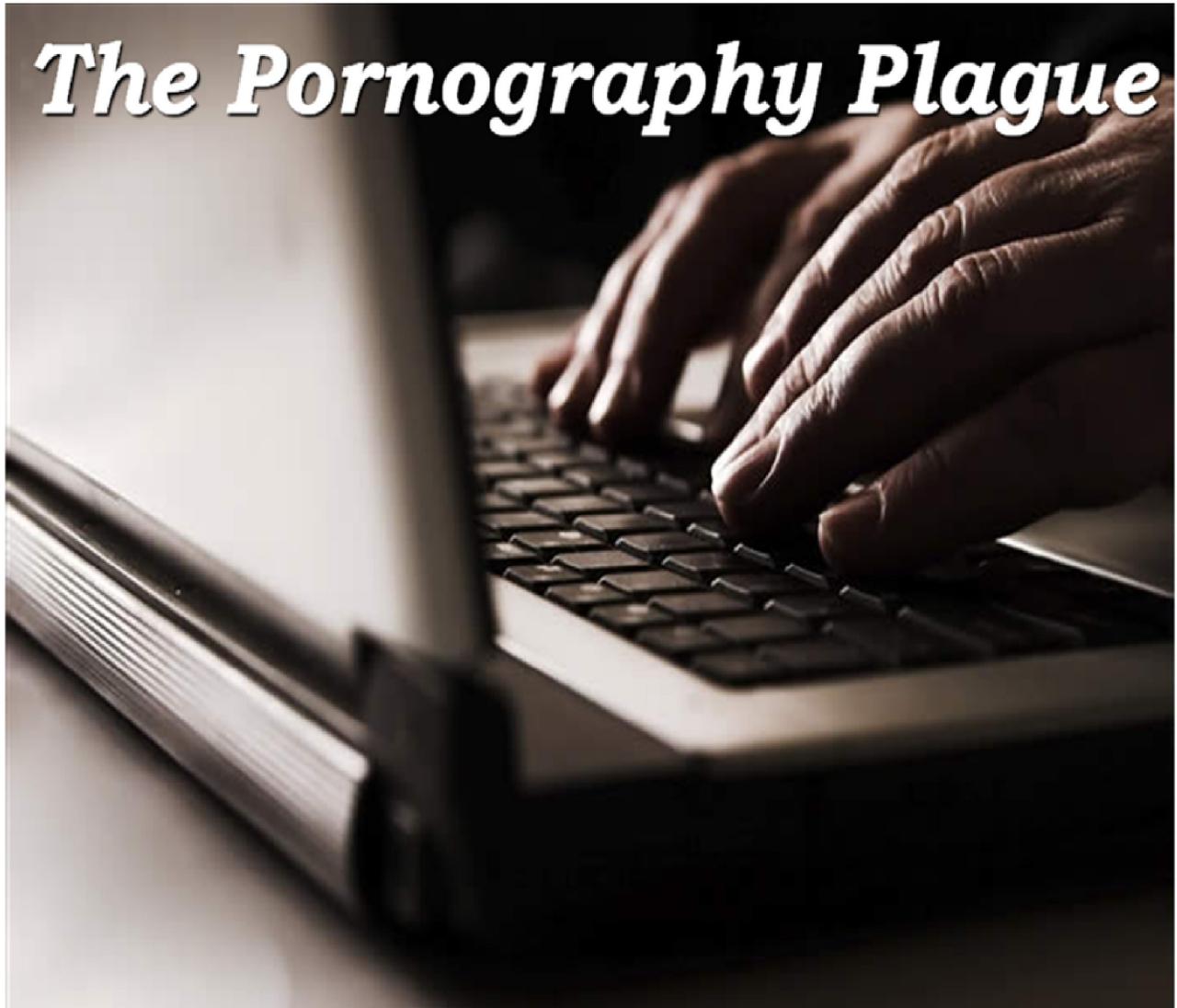


The Pornography Plague



Lesson by Ray Reynolds (4-28-10)

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INTRODUCTION: Most of us have heard the word “pollution.” The American public has become very acquainted with since both private and government groups have been actively promoting clean water, air, and a clean environment for Americans. While the battle for a clean environment has been taking place another form of pollution (pornography) has largely gone unregulated. We know and understand some of the dangers, but need to know where to draw the lines. I want us to answer some questions together and study about this great plague that must be targeted and avoided.

DISCUSSION:

What Is Pornography?

Word comes from Greek words - *pornos* meaning fornication, illicit sexual behavior, etc., and *graphe* meaning writing. Pornography consists of magazines, books, movies, videos, music, etc. which portray illicit sexual behavior intended to arouse sexual desire - which God intended to be fulfilled only in the marriage relationship.

How Easy Is It To Access Pornography? (Pornified by Pamela Paul)

You can get access to pornography in the mail, in nearly any book store, and in most convenience stores. Now pornography has been made even more popular because of the internet. There are literally thousands of pornographic websites. Pamela Paul, in her book *Pornified* said, “...increased distribution means pornography is available in ways never before: cheaply or freely, with anonymity and unlimited access...” She went on to say, “Ever since the Internet made it so easy to access, there’s no longer any stigma to porn.”

What Are The Statistics of Pornography? (www.family.org)

- *Americans spend more than \$8 billion on adult videos, pornographic websites, and magazines.*
- *Americans spend more money at strip clubs than Broadway, off-Broadway, regional, and nonprofit theaters, the opera, the ballet, and jazz and classical music performances -- combined.*
- *The USA produces 200 new pornographic titles a week (increased by 500% since the mid 90’s).*
- *Americans spend more than \$200 million ordering adult movies on pay-per-view alone.*
- *There are approximately 25,000 video stores that rent and sell hard-core films -- almost 20x the number of adult bookstores (more outlets for hard-core pornography than McDonald’s restaurants).*
- *The Playboy adult website averages about five million hits a day.*

How Did We Get To This Point?

- **1957 – Obscene Material not Protected**
- **1966 – Beginning of Modern Age of Pornography**
- **1970 – ACLU Commission Results**
- **1973 – Miller vs. California**
- **1983 – Legislation on Child Pornography**
- **1996 – Communications Decency Act**
- **1997 – Supreme Court Overturns Communications Decency Act**

Is CyberPorn Really A Problem? (Elle-MSNBC poll)

- \$2,500,000,000 annually
- 4,200,000 porn websites (12%)
- 372 million pages
- 72 million visitors/day
- 40 million "routine" visitors
- 2.5 billion pornographic emails/day
- 70% men, 41% women

Why Is CyberPorn So Addictive?

- *Virtually Anonymous*
- *Free/Cheap*
- *Instant Gratification*
- *Classified as Harmless*
- *Only Fantasy/Role Play*

What Are The Dangers of Addiction? (Dare to Dig Deeper by Dr. Victor Cline)

Five Stages of Addiction:

1. **Early exposure.** Most guys who get addicted to porn start early, and it gets its foot in the door.
2. **Addiction.** Later comes addiction. You keep coming back. You're hooked. You can't quit.
3. **Escalation.** After a while, escalation begins. You start to look for graphic porn, it excites you.
4. **Desensitization.** Eventually, you become numb. Graphic, degrading porn doesn't effect you.
5. **Acting out sexually.** At this point, many make a dangerous jump and start acting out sexually.

What Are The Lies of Pornography?

Lie #1 = Women are less than human.

Lie #2 = Women are a "sport."

Lie #3 = Women are property.

Lie #4 = A woman's value depends on the attractiveness of her body.

Lie #5 = Women like rape. "

What Are The Effects of Pornography? (The Centerfold Syndrome by Gary Brooks)

Voyeurism: An obsession with visual stimulation that minimizes all features of a healthy relationship.

Objectification: An obsession with body parts at the expense of the whole person.

Validation: A condition in which a man needs sexually submissive women to validate himself.

Trophyism: Treating women as collectibles and property.

Fear of Intimacy: An inability to get beyond centerfold images in order to enter a real relationship.

Is Pornography An Issue In The Church (2005 Survey)?

- *Targeted email sent to members of the Church of Christ*
- *Filtering survey (not asked all questions depending on answers)*
- *6,444 Visits, 924 Partials, 4,365 Completes*
- *99 indicated not members of church of Christ (removed)*
- *56 indicated < 100% honest (removed)*
- *4,210 completed surveys used in analysis*
- *Nearly 1 in 3 men have viewed Internet pornography on more than 25 occasions*
- *Nearly 3 in 4 men ages 19 to 29 indicate they struggle with Internet pornography as a temptation*

Is Pornography An Issue With Our Teens? (University of Minnesota survey, 2007).

- *93% of teens 12-17 have daily access to the internet.*
- *70% of those surveyed had accidentally accessed pornography.*
- *62% of their parents were unaware of that access.*

Is Pornography An Issue With Our Children? (Pew/Internet & American Life Project, July 27,2005).

- 72% have access to a home computer with internet access in an open family area.
- 18% have access to a home computer with internet access in a private area.
- 51% use the internet on a daily basis.
- 24% use the internet several times a day.
- 81% use the internet to play games.
- 76% get their news online.
- 43% make regular purchases online.
- 31% use the internet to get health information online.
- 45% have their own cell phone.
- 33% can send text/pix messages on their phone.
- 22% have used their phone/computer to access information on sex.

What Problems Can Pornography Pose For A Christian?

- *Pornography is Biblically wrong*
- *Pornography steals intimacy from one's spouse*
- *Pornography causes erroneous comparisons*
- *34% of women see pornography as cheating in absolutely all cases; 13% of men*
- *"Among couples with children, 37 percent reported that children lost parental time and attention due to a parent's online sexual activities..." (Elle-MSNBC poll)*
- *"Particularly on the internet, men find themselves veering off into pornographic arenas they never thought they would find appealing." (Pamela Paul, **Pornified**)*

What Does The Bible Say About Pornography?

- *Pornography Is Distinctively Evil (I Thessalonians 5:21-22).*
- *Pornography Is Divisive To Families (Genesis 1:27).*
- *Pornography Is Destructive To Children (Mark 9:42).*
- *Pornography Is Deceptive To Couples (Proverbs 9:17, Proverbs 14:12).*
- *Pornography Is Distorting God's View of Sex (Genesis 1:27).*
- *Pornography Is De-humanizing Women (John 4:1-42, John 8:1-11).*
- *Pornography Is Defiling Men (Matthew 5:28-29).*
- *Pornography Is Demoralizing Sex (Leviticus 18:22-24).*
- *Pornography Is Defending Violence (Matthew 5:38-48).*
- *Pornography Is Damaging For Our Community (Ephesians 4:19).*
- *Pornography Is Defeated At Home (Proverbs 22:6).*
- *Pornography Is Deadly (Galatians 5:9).*

Who Are The Victims of Pornography?

- *Those Who Are Addicted To Pornography Are Victims (Hebrews 11:25, James 1:13-15).*
- *Those Who Are Affected By Pornography Are Victims (Ephesians 5-6).*
- *Those Who Have Accepted Pornography Are Victims (Ephesians 6, I Peter 5:8).*

What Does The Bible Say About Adultery?

- *Lust leads to spiritual adultery (Matthew 5:28).*
- *Violates the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:14).*
- *A form of covetousness (Exodus 20:17).*
- *Worthy of death (Leviticus 20:10).*
- *Destroys the soul (Proverbs 6:32).*
- *A work of the flesh (Galatians 5:19).*
- *It is condemnable in judgment (Hebrews 13:4).*
- *Cause of eternal tribulation (Revelation 2:22).*

What Should Christians Do In Response To Pornography?

- *Christians Should Be Prayerful (Ephesians 6:10-18).*
- *Christians Should Be Protected (Romans 14:23)*
- *Christians Should Be Prepared (Luke 10:27-37).*
- *Christians Should Be Positive (Matthew 5:13-14).*
- *Christians Should Be Patriotic (Romans 13:1-7).*
- *Christians Should Be Purposeful (Genesis 1:27).*
- *Christians Should Be Practical (Philippians 4:13).*

How Can I Find Out More About Overcoming Pornography Addiction?

ONLINE RESOURCES

- www.family.org = The official *Focus on the Family* website.
- www.pureintimacy.org = Dedicated to recovering the heart of sexuality.
- www.silverringthing.com = A website that promotes sexual abstinence.
- www.citizenlink.org = A *Focus on the Family* website for taking action.
- www.ccv.org = The *Citizens for Community Values* webpage.
- www.americandecency.org = The *American Decency Association* webpage.
- www.enough.org = The *Enough is Enough* webpage for making the internet safer.
- www.obsceitycrimes.org = The *Morality in Media, Inc.* webpage.
- www.nationallawcenter.org = The *National Law Center for Children and Families* webpage.
- www.nationalcoalition.org = *National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Families*
- www.safeteens.com = *Word Press* operates this online informational site

VIDEOS

- Fatal Addiction: Ted Bundy's Final Interview* with Dr. James Dobson
- Every Young Man's Battle* video series (*Focus on the Family*)

BOOKS

- Every Young Man's Battle* by Stephen Arterburn, Fred Stoeker, Mike Yorkey (*Waterbrook*)
- G.U.A.R.D.* by Caleb Colley (*Colley*)
- The Mind Polluters* by Dr. Jerry Kirk (*Thomas Nelson*)
- Tribe: A Warriors Battle* by Michael Ross (*Tyndale*)
- Real Solutions for Overcoming Internet Addictions* by Stephen O. Watters (*Servant*)
- Love Must be Tough: Straight Talk* by Dr. James C. Dobson (*Word*)
- The Case Against Pornography* by Don Wildmon (*Victor*)
- Dare to Dig Deeper* by Gene McConnell and Keith Campbell (*Focus on the Family*)
- Youth, Pornography, and the Internet* by the National Research Council (*NA Press*)
- Final Report of the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography* (*Rutledge Hill*)
- The Centerfold Syndrome* by Gary Brooks (*Bedford*)
- Pornography: A Human Tragedy* by Tom Minnery (*Christianity Today*)
- The Game Plan* by Joe Dallas (*Thomas Nelson*)

How Can Someone Overcome Addiction?

1. *Confess Your Sins*
2. *Renew Your Commitment to God*
3. *Communicate Your Needs*
4. *Control Your Desires*
5. *Establish A Covenant With Your Eyes (Job 31:1, Psalm 101:3)*

CONCLUSION: *Everyman's Battle* says, "No wife should be made to share the intimacy of her marriage bed with some shameless porn model." When we fill our heads with pornography we cannot appreciate true intimacy. Pornography is an evil which can destroy both body and soul. Paul suggested filling our heads with things that are positive and encouraging (**Philippians 4:8**). We need to be better equipped to handle this issue in the church today. If you are struggling, you need to find healing at the foot of the cross!