

Battling Pornography

Presented by Ray Reynolds (4/4/09)

The Statistics of Pornography

In one year Americans will spend more than \$8 billion on adult videos, pornographic websites, and magazines.

Americans spend more money at strip clubs than at any and all Broadway, off-Broadway, regional, and nonprofit theaters, the opera, the ballet, and jazz and classical music performances -- combined.

The USA produces about 200 new titles a week (increased by 500 percent since the mid 90's).

In the past year Americans have spent 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 20 times the number of adult bookstores. And now more outlets for hard-core pornography in the than McDonald's restaurants.

The Playboy adult website averages about five million hits a day.

The Dangers of Addiction

Dr. Cline says that sex and pornography can be a more difficult addiction to break than cocaine (*Dare to Dig Deeper*).

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 to porn. You're hooked. You can't quit.
3. **Escalation.** After a while, escalation begins. You start to look for more graphic porn, it excites you.
4. **Desensitization.** Eventually, you start to become numb. Even graphic, degrading porn doesn't effect you.
5. **Acting out sexually.** At this point, many men make a dangerous jump and start acting out sexually.

The Effects of Addiction

In his book, *The Centerfold Syndrome*, psychologist Gary Brooks identified five distinct effects from consuming a steady diet of pornography:

- **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.

The Lies of Pornography

Pornography communicates its own "truths" about women. Unfortunately, they're all lies. Here are five things pornography teaches men about women.

1. **Lie: Women are less than human.** The women in *Playboy* magazine are called "bunnies," making them cute little animals or "playmates," or a toy. The idea that women are real human beings is played down.
2. **Lie: Women are a 'sport.'** Some sports magazines have a swimsuit issue. This suggests that women are just some kind of sport. Porn views sex as a game and in a game: You have to win, conquer or score.
3. **Lie: Women are property.** It's common to see pictures of the slick car with the sexy girl draped over it. The unspoken message is, "Buy one, and you get them both." Hard-core porn carries this even further. It displays women like merchandise in a catalogue, exposing them for the customer.
4. **Lie: A woman's value depends on the attractiveness of her body.** Overweight or less attractive women are ridiculed in porn. They are called dogs, whales, pigs or worse, simply because they don't fit into porn's criteria of the perfect woman. In fact, if someone is attracted to a heavyset woman, porn labels that a fetish.
5. **Lie: Women like rape.** "When she says no, she means yes" is a typical porn scenario. Women are shown being raped, fighting and kicking at first, and then starting to like it. Porn eroticizes rape and makes it arousing. Women are shown being tied up, beaten, and humiliated in sick ways for entertainment.

What Does The Bible Say?

Pornography Is Distinctive

A Christian should see the difference between good and evil (**I Thessalonians 5:21-22**).

Pornography Is Divisive

It's a perversion that attacks everything God cherishes because man is made in God's image (**Genesis 1:27**). Pornography will divide homes and families, relationships will suffer, and tragedies will occur.

Pornography Is Destructive

We should be concerned about destroying the innocence of children (**Mark 9:42**). You don't play with a lit stick of dynamite. Stay away from pornography or it will get control of you.

Pornography Is Deceptive

Pornography says the best sex is outside of marriage. Pornography promises what it cannot deliver. **Proverbs 9:17** tells us that "*stolen waters are sweet...*" but, **Proverbs 14:12** tells us, "*There is a way which seems right to a man but the end is the way of death.*" You will never be satisfied with pornography.

Who Are The Victims?

Those Who Are Addicted To Pornography Are Victims

There is such a thing as enjoying the "*pleasure of sin for a season*" (**Hebrews 11:25**), but according to **James 1:13-15** sin in its fullest form brings forth death (Every Christian should watch Ted Bundy's final interview with Dr. James Dobson). A study by Dr. Marshall of adult sex offenders found that 86% of convicted rapists said they were regular users of pornography, with 57% admitting direct imitation of pornographic scenes in the commission of their rapes.

Those Who Are Affected By Pornography Are Victims

Families are directly affected. Marriages are broken beyond repair. Women and children are affected.

Those Who Have Accepted Pornography Are Victim

We must arm ourselves with the whole armor of God (**Ephesians 6**) and resist him (**I Peter 5:8**).

How Should Christians Respond?

Christians Should Be Prayerful

We are to take a stand on our knees. This is a spiritual battle (**Ephesians 6:10-18**). What could we do better than to pray for God to rid us of pornography and to help heal its victims?

Christians Should Be Prepared

We cannot expect pornography to disappear overnight. We need to be the ones who minister the healing balm in the lives of pornography victims (**Luke 10:27-37**). Are we prepared to help people and minister?

Christians Should Be Positive

We need to be salt and light in our culture (**Matthew 5:13-14**). We need to take an active role in helping to eliminate pornography from our land. It is our responsibility to be informed and take action.

Christians Should Be Patriotic

The First Amendment gives us the freedom of speech. We have a moral obligation to this country to pass legislation that will prevent this from corrupting future generations (**Romans 13:1-7**).

Christians Should Be Purposeful

The Bible teaches that every human life has dignity and is sacred (**Genesis 1:27**). What is our purpose? Where do we stand? Would God want us to protect ourselves and our friends?

Christians Should Be Practical

We need to become knowledgeable about the issues concerning pornography. We need to write or call elected government officials expressing your views against pornography. We should speak with store managers who display pornographic materials and ask the materials to be moved out of sight. We need to join others in our efforts to battle against this problem. We need to know God will give us strength to overcome addiction and give others peace of mind and soul (**Philippians 4:13**).

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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*

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)