

Explosion of Pornography

Pornography has been tearing apart the very fabric of modern society since the 1950's, but the problem has been made much worse with the internet. What used to be available only in the back room of "Adult" bookstores, is now just a click away. And Americans, including Christians are clicking away.

Studies show that 40 million adults regularly visit Internet pornography sites.¹

Revenue from Internet porn exceeds - by nearly a 2 to 1 ratio - the combined revenues of ABC, CBS, and NBC.²

Sales of pornographic material on the Internet surpass the cumulative sales of all other products sold online.³

The current estimate is that there are over 4 million pornographic websites representing almost 400 million pages of pornographic material.⁴

According to *Leadership Journal*, 40 percent of pastors admit to visiting a pornographic website.⁵ And at one Promise Keepers Convention, 53 percent of men admitted to visiting a porn site the week before.⁶

And the largest consumer of Internet pornography is the 12-17 age group.⁷

For every 10 men in church, five are struggling with pornography.⁸

The impact pornography is having on young people is alarming. The average age of first exposure to Internet pornography is 11 years old for boys and 12 years old for girl.⁹

93% of boys and 62% of girls are exposed to Internet porn before the age of 18.¹⁰

Child pornography generates \$3 billion annually.¹¹

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Evil of Pornography

"So what is so bad about looking at some pictures of naked women?" Great question!

God created sex for two purposes;
(1) Procreation - "be fruitful and multiply" - and
(2) Pleasure (Proverbs 5:18-19, see the Song of Solomon). It seals the marriage, making the couple "one flesh."

God put some limits on the use of this gift - it is to be used only between and husband and his wife. Any sexual practice outside this limit (marriage) is sin, whether it be adultery (Exodus 20:14), bestiality (Lev. 18:23), homosexuality (Lev. 18:22 and 20:13), incest (Lev. 18:6-18), or prostitution (Deut. 23:17-18). The prohibitions include couples having sexual intercourse before marriage (see Genesis 35:5 where Jacob describes his daughter as "defiled" for having a sexual relationship before marriage).

"Fornication" is the general term for any kind of sexual sin. The Greek word translated "fornication" in the New Testament is "porneia" and is the root of the term "pornography."

All sexual sins are based on LUST instead of LOVE.

Jesus said in **Matthew 5:27-28**, "*Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*"

James explains this in **James 1:14-15**, "*But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*"

If that were not enough, consider the impact of pornography:

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If that were not enough, consider the impact of pornography:

- **Pornography dehumanizes women.**

Women are portrayed in pornography as objects to be possessed and exploited instead persons made in the image of God, and of great value (Gen. 1:27, Prov. 31:10).

- **Pornography desensitizes users.**

Men who use porn on a regular basis actually experience a re-wiring of their brain that makes them less responsive to women in real life. This leads to serious dysfunction in marriage - impotency. As the porn user redirects the brains "reward center" to porn, he becomes addicted. And like other addicts, he will require "heavier doses" to get the same sense of reward. This leads to more extreme forms of pornography such as sadism and child porn.

- **Pornography depersonalizes sex.**

God describes the act of marriage as "knowing his wife." But pornography portrays sex as being something for self-gratification and separate of personal relationship. The use of pornography is usually accompanied by masturbation.

- **Pornography destroys lives.**

Many, if not most, porn users are addicted to it. There are four steps to porn addiction:
(1) **Exposure** - someone introduces them to dirty images, or perhaps an accidental click on an "adult site;" (2) **Escalation**- viewing pornography is arousing, the brain releases epinephrine, an adrenal gland hormone that gives an emotional high; the person begins using pornography more frequently for the pleasurable feelings and release; but like other addictions, it takes more to create the same feeling; (3) **Enslavement**- the individual becomes "hooked," shocking and disgusting sexual behavior is no longer avoided but sought out for more intense stimulation; (4) **Experimentation** or acting out fantasies that have been viewed.

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The Bible warns us in **Numbers 32:23b** "be sure your sin will find you out." Sooner or later the porn addict's secret sin will be exposed.

Escaping Pornography

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
--1 John 1:9

Step One: Admit

The first step to overcoming any addiction is to face the fact – you are addicted! Don't excuse it as just a "weakness," or attempt to justify it. Addiction to pornography is a sin against a holy God.

Jesus said, "**Matthew 5:27-28**, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

Step Two: Accept

If you are not saved, acknowledge your sins and receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior!

If you are already saved, acknowledge your weakness, confess your sin, and seek God's help to overcome it. You are in a spiritual battle, one that you cannot win on your own. Pride is the biggest obstacle to recovery.

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:"

--1 Peter 5:6

Step Three: Advance

"Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart." -- 2 Timothy 2:22

The Christian life is a race. We are to RUN FROM temptations; We are to RUN TO becoming the man God designed us to be; and we are to

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RUN WITH other believers, recognizing that none of us have arrived yet.

Step Four: Account

Find a friend or two that you trust and ask him to keep you accountable. This could be a pastor, or an older believer, or someone who has personally overcome porn addiction. Meet with them regularly and have them ask you – "Have you kept yourself pure this month?" They will know when you are lying, so tell the truth.

Endnotes:

1. Mark Penn, *Microtrends: The Small Forces Behind Tomorrow's Big Changes* (NY: Twelve, 2007), 276.
2. *Ibid.*, 277.
3. George Barna, *Boiling Point: Monitoring Cultural Shifts in the 21st Century* (Ventura, CA: Regal, 2003), 223.
4. Truth in Porn, www.truthinporn.org
5. The Leadership survey on Pastors and Internet Pornography, 1 January 2001, <http://ctlibrary.com/9582>
6. *Today's Christian Woman*, September/October 2003.
7. Truth in Porn.
8. *The Call to Biblical Manhood*. Man in the Mirror, 6 July, 2004.
9. *Your Children & Pornography: A guide for Parents*, Tom Buford. Tommera Press, 2001.
10. *Ibid.*
11. The Nature and Dynamic of Internet Pornography Exposure for Youth by Chiara Sabina, Janis Wolak, and David Finkelhor



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THE TRUTH ABOUT PORNOGRAPHY



"Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:"

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