

Purity in a Pornified World: A Christian response to porn

Brought to you by EFAC & Adelaide City Bible Forum

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Aims of this session:

This session aims to help Christian ministers and those in Christian leadership better understand, respond to and deal with issues involving pornography.

Objectives:

At this end of this session you will:

1. Have an understanding of the theology and biology of sexuality.
2. Understand how pornography disrupts every stage of our sexuality from sexual desire to love and commitment.
3. Understand the brain mechanism that underpins compulsive porn use.
4. Comprehend the pervasive effect of porn across ages and gender; couples and singles.
5. Have some tools to manage porn use both personally and in your

Useful References

Books:

Wired for Intimacy: How Pornography hijacks the male brain. William M Struthers. Intervarsity Press. 2009.

The Porn Trap: The Essential Guide to Overcoming Problems Caused by Pornography. Wendy Maltz & Larry Maltz. HarperCollins. 2008

Pornland: How Porn has Hijacked our Sexuality. Gail Dines. Beacon Press. 2010.

Web Sites:

Porn-Again Christian: A frank discussion on Pornography and Masturbation. E-book by Mark Driscoll. Copyright 2009 Mars Hill Church: http://relit.org/porn_again_christian Accessed on 16th Feb 2011.

The Social Costs of Pornography: A Statement of Findings and Recommendations. Mary Eberstadt & Mary Anne Layden (prepared by). Social Trends Institute. Copyright Witherspoon Institute 2010. <http://www.internetsafety101.org/upload/file/Social%20Costs%20of%20Pornography%20Report.pdf> Accessed on 16th Feb 2011.

Porn Harms (US site) good information: <http://www.pornharms.com/> Accessed 16th Feb 2011

Internet accountability software: <http://www.covenanteyes.com/?promocode=ceblog> Accessed 16th Feb 2011-02-17

Australian Govt site: Cybersmart: <http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/>

Discussion Scenarios:

1. Tom and Jane are long term parishioners, both in their early thirties. They have been married five years. Both busy professionals. They have no children. Tom asks for an appointment with you – alone. He says it is a family matter.

Tom tells you that a couple of years ago, they went on a cruise with two other couples. One of the couples had a stash of porn videos and it became a habit that nightly they would all watch a video together and then go to their cabins. Tom tells you that this was a real turn on for them and Jane and he had the best, wildest sex ever on the cruise. After they returned from the holiday, they continued the habit of watching porn videos.

Gradually, Jane got bored of the videos. However he now cannot get aroused or make love to Jane without watching a porn video. He has moved from DVDs to on-line porn. Jane is now upset and wants him to stop – or else.....

2. They are such a lovely family – father mother and three kids. Josh – the middle kid is a real charmer. At eighteen he is in first year university, a youth Bible study leader and plays in the band at the evening service.

Recently he has been dating Rena. Rena is sixteen, in year eleven in a private girl's school. She is the only child of a family who has just migrated to Australia from Singapore. Rena attends Bible study and sings in the evening service singing group. One day, Rena's father comes to see you – he is furious.

They have found on her cell phone, a picture sent by Josh. A picture of Josh – full frontal with his genitals exposed. The text below says 'When I am like this, I think of you.' Rena's father blames you, the church, Josh and his parents for corrupting his daughter.

3. You and Sam have been friends from first year theological college. You have studied together, eaten together, even been on double dates. You now serve in parishes within a few suburbs of each other. You are both married with young children, and your spouses are best friends. It's been a perfect friendship – for all of twenty years

Until – Sam tells you that he thinks he is addicted to porn. He started about eighteen months ago when the church was going through a really stressful time with leadership problems. He found that watching a bit of porn at the end of a long and stressful meeting was restful and relaxing. After a couple of months he found that watching porn and sometimes masturbating when doing so was something he enjoyed. He didn't think it mattered – it was only occasionally he did it.

Recently however he finds that every so often, especially when he sees a pretty girl, his mind turns to porn and he wants to rush home and watch it. He also finds that he is not sexually aroused by his wife. He pleads for your understanding – support – help.