

The Sin of Pornography

By Rev. Kenneth Parrish

One of the greatest gifts God has given to a husband and wife is sex. Sex is what draws a husband to his wife, and a wife to her husband. It is through this unique power of sexual union that the two become one. Not only is it good for the husband and wife, but it is good for the entire family. You see, the strongest relationship in a home should be that between a husband and wife, NOT between a parent and child. When the husband/wife relationship is strong, then the parent/child relationship will automatically fall in place.

There is a purpose for sex, and it's not necessarily for reproduction. God has given us sex so that the husband may intimately know the wife, and the wife may intimately know the husband. It is to express vulnerability toward one another. It has the purpose of giving as well as receiving. Sex is one of the most sacrificial and giving act that a husband and wife can bestow upon each other.

Pornography on the other hand provides none of these qualifications. It is one of the most selfish acts a person can experience. With pornography, you do not intimately get to know one another, nor is there any vulnerability shown. And if there is any "giving" involved, it is the giving of pleasure to one's self. Pornography is all about fulfilling any perceived need with any partner, willing or unwilling. It is a selfish experience!

There may not be anything more dangerous to a moral life than that of pornography. Unfortunately, the world has welcomed pornography with open arms. Society today honors pornographers and has legitimized the business as an industry. But pornography is a Trojan horse type of sin. It sneaks in and causes destruction before one can realize it. It can cause lasciviousness (sexual addiction), fornication, adultery, child pornography, pedophilia and every other form of immorality that is imaginable. The Bible tells us in John 3:19-20 that it is the love for sin which prevents sinners from coming to Jesus Christ for salvation.

It is no secret that the human sexual appetite far exceeds its biological purpose. If the appetite simply matched the biological purpose, then we would only have sex once or twice in our lifetime, or we would have thousands of children. I believe that God intended for us to have sex for reasons beyond procreation.

A sexual desire is what motivates a man to pursue a wife and marry, so that they may enjoy sex. And it is this same desire that causes a man to continue to pursue his wife after they are married.

We all know that men and women are different and that they have different needs. Generally speaking, men have a higher sexual drive than women, whereas a woman will have a higher emotional drive. This high sex drive will usually have the man taking the initiative – loving their wives in such a way as to provide the wife with the emotional needs that she desires. When these emotional needs are fulfilled, then the husband's

physical needs will be met. A man will experience intimacy and acceptance after sex, but a woman needs that intimacy and acceptance before sex.

Sexual desire is there, especially in young, adolescent men; but it should not be an invitation to pornography. Sexual desire should be considered a nudge toward marriage (1 Corinthians 7:9). Patrick F. Fagan, Ph.D, psychologist and former Deputy Assistant Health and Human Services Secretary states, "Pornography hurts adults, children, couples, families, and society. Among adolescents, pornography hinders the development of a healthy sexuality, and among adults, it distorts sexual attitudes and social realities. In families, pornography use leads to marital dissatisfaction, infidelity, separation, and divorce." In 2010, a study was done by the National Coalition for the Protection of Children & Families that show 47% of families in the US have reported a pornography problem in their home.

Sexual appetite, when unchecked, often leads to pornography. Women are flaunting their sexuality everywhere, as well as men. The Bible tells us that when we look at another with lust in our hearts, we are adulterers (Matthew 5:28). We have committed fornication. We have sinned!

Many people say that pornography exploits women. I do not agree with that statement, because both men and women are to blame for the evils of pornography. Women willingly strip naked and pose to be photographed for money. They willingly dance for 'wolf-ish men' in strip clubs. We are taking advantage of God's blessings of sex by corrupting those blessings. From the woman who takes off her clothes, to the person who photographs her, to the retailer who sells the image, to the person who buys and views it ... they all will be accountable to God. And not just the men, but the women as well. Playgirl magazine is just as wicked as Playboy magazine. We have sunk so low spiritually that the average person doesn't even think twice about indulging in pornography. Roughly 40 billion people regularly visits pornography sites on the internet. That comes out to a little over 28,000 users watching internet pornography each second. Remember that pornography is an abomination unto God!

It has been said many times that pornography is a victimless crime ... that it really causes no harm. The same thing could be said about asbestos. For many years, no one thought that asbestos was harmful, until OSHA came along in 1970 and said we need to protect ourselves against this harmful dust. You see, once you breath asbestos into your lungs, it never leaves. Pornography is similar; once viewed, it will contaminate your life forever. You will be scarred. A man who is addicted to pornography is more likely to indulge in prostitution or other forms of sexual immorality than those who do not view pornography.

The Bible tells us that the root to all evil is the love of money (1 Timothy 6:10), and the love of money is what fuels the pornography industry. If it weren't for the love of money, Hugh Hefner would not have started his publication back in 1954. In fact, roughly 12% of internet sites are of a pornographic nature. Internet porn is an epidemic. It is estimated that the pornography industry's net worth is approximately \$97 billion and

growing. That's more than the NFL, NBA and MLB combined. Every second, over \$3,000 is being spent on pornography over the internet.

In 2015, PornHub, the industry's biggest provider of internet pornography, claims to have streamed 75 GB of data every second, or a total of 87.8 billion views. Mind Geek, who owns PornHub, Brazzers, YouPorn and Reality Kings, is one of the top 3 bandwidth-consuming companies in the world, the other two being Google and Netflix.

Pornography will tear a family apart. With pornography use, marital infidelity increases more than 300%. Up to 40% of "sex addicts" lose their spouses while 58% suffer considerable financial losses. Call me old fashion and boring, but I think fidelity is right.

Solomon had sex with at least 1,000 women, but he wasn't happy. In fact, Solomon said he hated life (Ecclesiastes 2:17). Here was a man that had everything – he was the richest and wisest man in the world at the time – yet he was unhappy. He fed his sexual appetite to his heart's desire, but he still couldn't find satisfaction.

It is only through Jesus that we can find true satisfaction and happiness. All pornography does is frustrate. Why frustrate yourself? Keep company with prostitutes and you may be arrested or end up in a doctor's office with a STD (Sexually Transmitted Disease). Some STDs have no cure (like herpes or AIDS). If you flirt with women, you may get your teeth knocked out by a jealous boyfriend or husband. Think about that for a minute!

The devil will only show you the bright neon signs and smooth paved roads of pornography. He will not show you where those roads may lead.

God has given us sex so that a husband may know his wife and the wife may know her husband, so that the two may become one. Leave pornography in the gutter where it belongs, and trust God to show you the true meaning of sex.