

THE EVIL OF PORNOGRAPHY

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Introduction: Pornography Is a Real and Dangerous Problem in Our Society of Which Christians Are not Immune (1 Cor. 10:12).

I. What Is Pornography?

A. “Sexually explicit pictures, writing, or other material whose primary purpose is to cause sexual arousal” – American Heritage Dictionary.

B. From the Greek word pornographia – literally means “the writing about or drawings of harlots” (prostitutes), akin to the Greek word porneia (fornication).

C. Pornography comes in a variety of forms of which we must beware!

Examples: Film, images, spoken erotic text, erotic sounds, photos in magazines or online, novels, short stories, live performances, art, music, music videos, TV shows, commercials, etc.

1. There does not have to be complete nudity, for something to be pornographic!

Examples: Sports Illustrated Swimsuit issue, Victoria Secret, online magazines, modelling web sites, personal Internet homepages, etc.

2. Many today dress in “fig leaves” and need garments to cover themselves!
(**Gen. 3:6-7, 21**).

II. What Is Evil About Pornography? (1 Thes. 5:21-22).

A. It is a form of lasciviousness (lewdness / sensuality) (i.e., an unrestrained, shameless public display of sex acts) a “work of the flesh” (**Gal. 5:19**).

B. It is “of the world,” an enticement that causes people to lust (**1 John 2:15-17**).

C. It wrongly teaches that sex outside of the marriage relationship is proper or acceptable (**Heb. 13:4**).

D. It causes people to lust and commit “adultery in the heart” (**Mat. 5:27-28**).

III. Beware of the Dangers of Pornography.

A. It corrupts the heart, producing thoughts of fornication and lasciviousness, making a person morally unclean (offensive to God) (**Mark 7:20-23; cf. Isa. 59:2**).

B. It easily can become an addiction that will enslave and destroy you.

1. Sinful activity can become an enslavement or addiction (**2 Pet. 2:18-19; John 8:34**).

2. Like alcohol, nicotine, heroin, gambling, etc., pornography can become an addiction that will destroy you over time.

C. Many of our young people are being ensnared by pornography.

Examples: (1) Classmates who supply it (**1 Cor. 15:33**). (2) Pay-per-view rated R or “mature” movies or “sneak previews” of movie channels (3) Internet surfing (4) I-Pods mini-screens

1. Parents should not be naive or foolish, but without hesitation protect their children as much as possible from pornography.

Examples: TV guardian, parental controls, Internet filtering software (e.g., www.netmop.com), careful watch of the friends with whom they keep company, have honest and open discussions.

2. Sin can easily entangle us (**Heb. 12:1**), including our children.

D. It is a powerful force of destruction of marriages leading many married couples to divorce.

1. It is no accident that Jesus taught of the evil of adultery in the **same context** of the problem of divorce (**Mat. 5:27-32**).

E. It hardens the heart, causing a person to fall away from God and lose their salvation (**Heb. 3:12-13; Gal. 5:19-21**).

IV. Preventative Measures Against Pornography.

A. Prepare for a fight, a spiritual war against sin (**1 Pet. 2:11; Eph. 6:10-17**).

B. Do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is (**Eph. 5:17; Ps. 119:9**).

C. Keep or guard your heart (**Prov. 4:23; cf. Phil. 4:8**).

D. Pray without ceasing (**1 Thes. 5:17**), especially when confronted with temptation (**Mat. 26:41**).

E. Look for the way of escape (**1 Cor. 10:13; cf. 6:18; Gen. 39:12**).

F. If you struggle against pornography, seek the help and prayers of brethren who are *spiritual* (**James 5:16 / Gal. 6:1**).

Conclusion: The Evil of Pornography Must not Be Underestimated! May the Children of God Always Abstain from it.