

IV. TRUTHS ABOUT SEX

1. Porn is a lie from Satan that makes you desperate

US porn revenue is greater than all the combined revenues of ABC, CBS, and NBC television networks (6.2 billion).

The porn industry is a 57 billion dollar worldwide business...the revenue from porn is greater than all combined revenues of professional football, baseball, and basketball franchises.

A. Porn makes you desperate for a life you are not living.

1. What is porn? From word Porneia which is used 32 times in NT, and denotes many things
 - Illicit sexual intercourse – adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality, incest, sex with a divorced man or woman.
 - Metaphorically, the worship of idols, desires. Defilement of idolatry, such as happens if you worship your desires. In that day eating sacrifices offered to idols. In our day what does it mean to worship our desires? Anything we want so much we will sin to get it, or sin if we don't get it.
 - Anything we make hold white-fisted, make a fist around our heart about.
2. It is incredibly addictive, and leads to rape and other sexual deviance. Here's how.
 - a. Addiction: You keep coming back to it. It's a regular part of your life, you're hooked and can't quit.

A 2000 MSNBC.com survey found that as many as 80 percent of visitors to sex sites were spending so much time tracking down erotica on the computer that they were putting their real-life relationships and/or jobs at risk. "Until they discovered cybersex, most of these people had no problems with sexual addiction," according to the survey's author, Al Cooper.
 - b. Escalation: Start looking for more graphic pornography. What once would have made you disgusted is now enticing.

60% of all website visits are sexual in nature MSNBC Survey 2000.
 - c. Desensitization: Begin to feel numb to what you see, and even the most graphic porn is no longer arousing. Become desperate to feel the same thrill again, but can't find it.
 - d. Acting out sexually: Act out what you've seen and rehearsed in your mind. (Romans 1:24, 26-27 God gives you over to what you desire – you become addicted).

2. Porn hurts marriages:

The spouse becomes less and less attractive compared to the images being indulged in (Hebrews 13:4 The marriage bed is undefiled, God will judge those who dishonor it).

B. Porn is not just a male problem.

1. Females are presently being targeted – with both soft “chick porn” and hard porn.

- The porn industry has hooked men and is hooking women.

At a leading Christian university, 6 years ago, the RA’s biggest problem in the female dorms was porn use.

Internet filter review reported that:

** 1 of 3 visitors to adult websites are women*

** 17% of all women struggle with porn addiction*

** 9.4 million women access adult websites every month*

August 7, 2006 results of a ChristianNet poll reported by Marketwire.com found that:

50% of all Christian men and 20% of all Christian women are addicted to pornography.

60% of the women who answered the survey admitted to having significant struggles with lust; 40% admitted to being involved in sexual sin in the past year; and 20% of the church-going female participants struggle with looking at pornography on an ongoing basis.

2. Low-level chick porn for females “Chick flicks, romance novels”

- Webster’s definition of porn – The depiction of acts in a sensational manner so as to arouse a quick intense emotional response.
- Take the second definition of porneia, consider soft porn/ worship of desires.
- Consider this - “chick porn” is equally as harmful to relationships as what is traditionally regarded as porn. If physical porn creates unrealistic expectations in men, is emotional porn doing any different in women? What else gets you to dream of a perfect man and pray to God for one just like him? The very thing we complain about in physical porn is happening in emotional porn, and hurting relationships no less.
- How can it hurt to do “chick porn?” Our leading man in any chick flick: undying love, pure romance, sweet words, heroic rescues, persistent pursuit, tears, laughter, protection, flowers, gifts, devotion, never grumpy, never wanting to be alone, never burping or farting, focused always on the female. This focus offers no less of the same self-absorbed pleasure in the emotional realm, as physical porn offers self-absorbed pleasure in the physical realm.

- Feeding these desires leaves you feeling very alone, letdown, and disappointed with ANY man, no matter how wonderful (Proverbs 4:23). Guard your inner man, guard your heart.
- Desire God's glory not what soft porn feeds.
- Female porn has been an accepted pastime and distraction for decades, sliding under our self-righteous radar.
- Now escalating and moving into the realm of visual physical porn.

C. Warning: Don't excuse porn on the part of a guy or girl

Proverbs 7:12 It waits everywhere.

Proverbs 7:12, 24-27 Many a victim she has laid low.

- For both, porn usage is a sign that you've done so much and gone so far that you need harder and harder images to watch. You become desperate for more and harder images, desperate in your need for the perfect sexual partner, desperate in the pit of porn.
- If you're waiting for marriage before sex and your potential mate is looking at porn, he or she is cheating on you. Porn must be confessed of and kicked before marriage.
- Porn brings a third person into the relationship, one who is used for only selfish reasons. You are cheating or being cheated on, it's called adultery.
- As wives, you are to submit to husbands as to the Lord. Porn is never submitting to the Lord, and thus plays no part in a marriage.
- Equally, if a partner confesses of porn, it is the Christian mate's only recourse to forgive (Colossians 3:13). A spouse must forgive as Jesus forgives. A date must forgive and step back (Psalm 1:1, 2 Corinthians 7:11).

D. Watch out for these 4 desires that will hook temptation

1. Desire for the forbidden (Proverbs 9:13-18).
 - Are you open to anything (a pethi, simple fool?)
 - The allure of the forbidden starts simple (try leaving a four year old alone in a room and telling him not to open a box) and grows. Eve was tempted by the forbidden.
 - The allure of the forbidden extends to rapists who say the act of overpowering and taking possession of what is forbidden is what stimulates them (you can extrapolate).
 - The fruit of the Spirit is self control.
2. Desire for ego fulfillment (Proverbs 6:24-28)
 - We want to be noticed (and so we dress seductively and act provocatively and make jokes with suggestive undertones).

- We want to feel needed (this desire can override the fact that a prostitute is being paid).
 - We want to feel wanted and appreciated (girls easily pick up on this desire and eventually come to feel that the only way they are worthy of appreciation is when they gratify men).
 - Only the Father's love fulfills you.
3. Desire to reward yourself (Ecclesiastes 2:1, 8-11).
- Do you think you deserve to have a little fun?
 - Look at Solomon rewarding himself by taking hundreds of foreign women living in Israel.
 - The desire for pleasure can spiral you very easily into a fantasy world. Beware the internet.
4. Desire for variety (Proverbs 5:1-5, 20, 1 Kings 11:1-3).
- A strange woman is compared to honey and smooth oil. Something new, something different.
 - Desire for variety manifests in obsessive behavior. We are not satisfied and want more, more, more, more.
 - Variety is the spice of life – lie from Satan.

II. Sex is a gift from God that makes you satisfied in marriage

A. Celebrate sex as a good gift from God that points to the ultimate joy of a satisfying relationship with Christ.

- There are three purposes for sex in the Bible – procreation, protection from temptation, and pleasure. Which of these three do you think gets the most air time?
- God wants you to have pleasure! But it will be found in generous giving of joy of your spouse, rather than in your satisfaction.
- We must learn how to embrace sexuality without indulging it.
- When we bring our humanity and our sexual desires under God's dominion – we're fighting for it, we're rescuing it from being ruined by lust, we're able to enjoy our sexuality because we don't get trapped by the insatiable pit of lust. (Psalm 103:4 says we've been redeemed from the pit. If you're enslaved by sexual lust, change your master. Choose the master who crowns you with love and mercy, and satisfies you with good Psalm 103:4-5.)
- Sex in marriage is as pure and holy as reading your Bible or praying or teaching Sunday School.

- And remember, the Bible has more to say about its purpose being pleasure and protection than procreation (In our counseling center, we've seen way too many married couples get caught up in the trap that we MUST procreate, resulting in sin on the other two reasons for sex. We just not allow the philosophies of this world to stop us from thinking biblically.)

B. Sexual drive is not the same thing as lust.

- God gave us drives to move us toward something. Appetite for food so we eat. Appetite for sex so we will keep being joined together in one flesh marriages that show God's glory.
- What is lust? "Lust is a sexual desire minus honor and holiness." It could be any desire minus honor and holiness.
- Joshua Harris says the "Sex drive in a man is in some mysterious way part and parcel of our drive to build, advance, conquer, and survive....tied together with our creativity and innate human desire to continue life on this spinning planet. Being a sexual being with sexual desires is part of what it means to be a human created in God's image."
- Jesus – completely human (Philippians 2). He perfectly obeyed God's commands for purity and never lusted, but was completely human. Jesus was no half man. He had urges and desires, appreciated and noticed the beauty of woman - but none of this was sinful.
- Rather than coming to rescue us from our humanity like some alien space creature who beamed us up, he entered our humanity to rescue us from our sinfulness.
- Jesus didn't save us from being sexual creatures, that's all part of God's good creation. Jesus saves us from lust and impurity (1 Thessalonians 4:7-8).

C. So, what's OK? How do I glorify God in my humanity?

- We've seen how worshipping or elevating desire becomes problematic. Desire easily become lust, but doesn't have to.

<i>Humanity</i>	<i>Lust</i>	<i>How can I glorify God in this?</i>
Attracted to certain people, and notices that they are good-looking.	Undresses a person in their mind, or fantasizes about them. Wonders what that person looks like in the nude, or what it would be like to be with them.	Thank God for creating beauty and for giving you the ability to notice it. Ask God for purity not to covet or think of him or her as an object that you want. Ask God to help you view that person in God's image (Romans 1:20-21).
Strong desire to have sex.	Interacts with people in a way that might lead to sex (apart from pursuing marriage)	Thank God for making you a sexual creature, and ask Him to show you how to please Him with those desires (Romans 1:24-25). Put the energy into serving others (Galatians 5:13-14). Once you are

		married, you'll put it into serving your spouse, and that will include sex. (DeMoss – Singled Out)
Anticipates and is excited about having sex within marriage.	Gives in	Persevere as a single, growing in character (Romans 5:3-4).
Men and women get turned on without any conscious decision to do so.	Follows through	Cry out to God that your body is screaming for sexual satisfaction and ask him to quiet your desires. Ask for help to present your body to Him for His glory (Romans 6:12-14).
Experiences sexual temptation.	Entertains or dwells on sexual thoughts or actions.	Acknowledges that God has made you for true and lasting pleasure. Ask Him to help you trust that He has good in store (Romans 8:18-39).