

The Toxicity of Pornography

Up until the mid 1970's sexually explicit material in the mainstream was unheard of, having been limited to behind the counter materials, peep shows, and the poor side of town. However, by the mid 1990's our "enlightened" and technology based society has found a new pastime! In 2003 the "hardcore" Porn industry (adult videos, magazines, Cable/Pay per view, internet and CD-Rom) claimed an eight billion dollar profit in the United States alone. A number that has almost doubled in only four years! Today 55% of all motel and Hotel guests rent porn to be viewed in the privacy of their rooms. While 70% of those claiming to be Christians say they are either struggling with or are addicted to internet porn.

The world is having a difficult time trying to determine how to define pornography without trampling upon the First Amendment rights of citizens. Depending upon the State, the court and the judge, there will be any number of definitions arguing for or against the promotion of depravity. Believe it or not some feminists, who once sided with the absolute right of Americans to produce, publish and procure pornography, now find themselves campaigning against it on the basis that it degrades women. Yet the majority of liberals and Post-Modernists remain unconvinced that such material will either harm or oppress society as a whole.

America has become so pornified that we don't need subscribe to Playboy or Hustler magazine or rent what used to be referred to as XXX video. We are bombarded with provocative smut everyday! Consider the clothing available today for young girls and women, which are products of porn industry! Just try to watch regular television programming with the accompanying commercials and it is not long before you are confronted by sex scenes, homosexuality, ad nauseam. Victoria's Secret undergarments are even paraded across the TV screen in commercials, but now they have a one hour modeling extravaganza! What is the dominant theme and purpose behind pornography? Is it for

the welfare and benefit of making a stronger society? Hardly! Although many would trivialize its harm, the fact remains, and the overwhelming evidence proves that pornography demeans, as well as promotes sexual deviancy and adverse attitudes towards to relationships and marriage. Similar to the rush received by illegal drugs, addiction to pornography has the same effect on the human brain and nervous system. Research shows that 40% of all pornography addicts lose their spouse & job. The consumption of pornography in all its forms is intrinsically and morally wrong because it corrupts the character of men and women preventing them from leading worthwhile lives and establishing family and religious values so important to a decent society. Solomon rightly said, "*Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people*" (Proverbs 14:35KJV).

Whose Ethic Do We Follow?

Those defending pornography and all its trappings are quick to point out that religious conservatives should not be allowed to push their ethics upon society, while at the same time it is they (pornography's defenders) who are pushing their own ethics. Whether it is "soft-core" or "hard-core" pornography, XXX videos, magazines, internet web sites, or museum art, the unclothed displaying of the human body is unclean in the sight of God! The ethic of situationism is often applied to offer acceptance of what some call a 'softer' form of porn. This ethical relativism strips away the do's and don'ts of code ethics and makes decisions based upon the situation; desensitizing us to the point of accepting nude modeling for the purpose of 'art' as neither obscene nor immoral.

The ethic of values clarification permits the individual to do whatever is right in his/her own eyes and no one has the right to judge them. This humanist theology is used in our public schools to teach our children sex education. Through this value (or valueless) system, our children are taught that religion, parents, and adults in general are outdated, therefore each young person needs to decide for themselves whether they will be sexually

active or not. The point of this ethic is to encourage individuals to design their own set of beliefs and act upon them. There is no right or wrong method.

Advocates of pornography in all its forms even go so far as to argue that their "right-brain," "left-brain" theory. Contending that humanity cannot lust in their 'right-brain,' and therefore artists, actors, actresses, morticians, are 'right-brain' people and cannot lust at nudity. Atheists, agnostics and liberals falsely assume that human pleasure and satisfaction cannot exist unless unrestrained from the shackles of religious law. Satan has truly pulled the proverbial wool over their eyes, as true satisfaction results when one complies with God's laws. The author of the Hebrews letter reminds us that, "*Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but fornicators and adulterers God will judge*" (Hebrews 13:4KJV). There can be no doubt that pornography leads to fornication and adultery.

The Apostle Paul wrote that, "*The wisdom of the world is foolishness with God*" (1 Corinthians 3:19ASV). Solomon said, "*There is a way that seems right to man, but the end thereof is the way of death*" (Proverbs 16:25ASV). Jeremiah reminds us, "*That the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walks to direct his steps*" (Jeremiah 10:23KJV). It is therefore clear from these passages that we should never follow the ethical standards of the world; for the god of this world (Satan) has been a murderer since the beginning, and desires to sift us like wheat (John 8:44; Luke 22:31).

The Biblical View of Pornography

While pornography lowers the bar as to the worth of men and women, living according to God's will raises our worth far above gold, and rubies. Humanity was created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). We were created rational moral beings, with a conscience that helps guide us as to what is right or wrong. It cannot give us the details about good or evil, only the Word of God can do that, but our conscience does give us a sense of whether we should or should not take part in something. The Apostle Paul confirms for us this 'moral oughtness' as he wrote to the Christians at

Rome. "*For when the Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them*" (Romans 2:14-15 ESV).

While men and women are free to choose on their own whether they will follow what is good or evil, God will only bless those who make the choice to obey His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13). It is God's desire that everyone walk in the light as He is in the light (1 John 1:7); which means that we obey what God commands, we follow His rules of moral behavior alone. The word pornography comes from the Greek *porne*, meaning "prostitute" and *graphe*, meaning "writing," thus this word describes written descriptions of prostitution intended to produce sexual arousal. God's nature cannot conceive of the type of behavior promoted by pornography. Therefore He has warned us through His Word as to its vulgarness as well as its consequences. Solomon reminds us that the Word of God is as a light that helps us refrain from being burned by the enticements of a prostitute (Proverbs 6:23-27).

Metaphorically speaking, this is true of all enticements of the world, from pornography to gambling, to drugs, to alcohol. Jesus warns, "*But I say unto you, that every one that looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*" (Matthew 5:28ASV). What is the main purpose behind pornography but to cause men and women to lust after the opposite sex? To addict them to it, until looking is not enough, they must begin to act out their thoughts. James said, "*.....each man is tempted, when he is drawn away by his own lust, and enticed. Then the lust, when it hath conceived, beareth sin: and the sin, when it is fullgrown, bringeth forth death.*" (James 1:14-15ASV). Lust, when it is full-grown (acted upon) brings forth the death of the soul. It doesn't have to bring death to the soul, because we can repent and turn away from lusting; but it will bring about death (hell) if a

person continues to access pornography in all its forms.

“Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.” (1 Corinthians 10:6 ASV). The context of what Paul is discussing was the Israelites shortly after departing from Egypt. Paul tells us in Romans 15:4, the Old Testament Scriptures are there for our learning, so we should be studying them to glean principles whereby our own lives will not reflect those things that God is not pleased with. In other words we should not be lusting after evil things, of which pornography is a part. Christians we are told have ESCAPED the corruption of the world that is through lust (1 Peter 1:4). It is sad to hear of Christians who have been tempted by the wiles of the devil to the point that they have become addicted to pornography! Instead of escaping the corruption of the world and leaving an example for them to follow, their salt has lost its savor (Matthew 5:13)!

Peter said, *“Beloved, I beseech you as sojourners and pilgrims, to abstain from fleshly lust, which war against the soul; having your behavior seemly among the Gentiles; that, wherein they speak against you as evil-doers, they may by your good works, which they behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.”* (1 Peter 2:11-12 ASV). Fleshly lusts have never done anything to improve the worth of men and women. Instead it demeans the value of women, as men view them as nothing more than a sex object meant to satisfy their fleshly whims. Sex trafficking, rape, incest, pedophilia, and spousal abuse are just a few of the things resulting from the world of pornography. The pornography industry is most certainly not in it to promote self-worth, or to love thy neighbor! They are in it for the money! Eighty billion dollars worth and growing!

Pornography attacks the very foundation of the family, the home and the institution of marriage. It exploits both sexes as worthless objects to be used for monetary gain and selfish pleasure. The Holy Spirit through the pen of the Apostle Paul said, *“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are (these): fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousies,*

wraths, factions, divisions, parties, envyings, drunkenness, revellings, and such like; of which I forewarn you, even as I did forewarn you, that they who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” (Galatians 5:19-21 ASV). There is no doubt that pornography can be defined as a work of the flesh as it manifests itself in so many ways; idolatry, fornication, uncleanness, revellings, parties and lasciviousness. The Greek word *aselgeia*, from which our English word lasciviousness comes, denotes “debauchery, sensuality, sexual excesses, indecent conduct, lewdness, vulgarity, lust, that which produces lustful emotions.” What scientists call “Brain Sabotage” has been unleashed by the liberal media upon an unsuspecting public. They say that it only takes 3/10 of a second for a visual image to create a memory in our brains. Even children who cannot read will instantly create a memory of erotic, obscene, and otherwise pornographic material when viewing an image for only 3/10 of a second! Is it any wonder that the advertisers understand this science and are constantly bombarding us with images from Victoria’s Secret models, to Swimsuit models, etc?

The prominent philosophy of the day is *“eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die.”* Pornography most certainly answers to this calling. As was said of the Israelites of old, *“every man did that which is right in his own eyes”* (Judges 17:6), it appears that men and women continue to only think about themselves, and their own appetites. Is everyone so blind that they cannot see the degradation our country is going through because of the increased acceptance of pornography? People want to be seen as tolerant and enlightened by arguing that those opposed to pornography do not have to purchase it, or participate in it as long as others may freely do so. Yet, with the escalating number of pedophiles cruising the internet looking for young girls to act out their fantasies with; and youth ministers, preachers, fathers, teachers, being arrested is it any wonder why parents look cautiously at any adult who might just touch their child as a possible child abuser?

Pornography is having a great effect upon our society, so much so that teachers are no longer allowed to hug young children without fear of being accused of being a molester! Our nation is falling into the same trap that caused the Roman Empire to crumble – “the decadence of its citizens.” When are we going to learn that freedom of speech does not give freedom to destroy society, ethics, morals, family, or the institution of marriage? The Bible, God’s revelation to mankind on how to be the best you can be, by truly loving your neighbor as yourself; informs us we are to humble ourselves to the point that we esteem others better than ourselves (Colossians 2:3). If more people would act out on this ethic, then rape, incest, abuse, molestation, etc. would rapidly decrease.

Paul reminds us of the things we should be thinking on in place of pornography; *“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are PURE, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things”* (Philippians 4:8).

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*What Saith
the Scriptures?
Concerning.....*

Pornography



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