



Pornography Talking Points

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Letter from Minister

Pornography is raping the minds of people all over the world, Christian and Non-Christian alike. It is a multi-billion dollar industry that is tearing marriages and families apart throughout the world. Yet it is a topic that churches do not like to discuss because they do not know how to respond. Many in the church believe that this subject does not apply to them but this is far from the truth. 47% of all Christians in America struggle with pornography. Chances are you know someone who struggles with this issue.

Is there any hope of victory for marriages over this disease? Is there any protection for our children? Our hope and prayer is that this little booklet will provide talking points for you to talk with friends, family members, spouses, or your children about this serious issue that is effecting our culture today. The material found in the following pages is provided by www.xxxchurch.com where you can find more information on recovery from pornography!

Get the Facts on Pornography

Pornography Industry Statistics

- Size of the Industry - \$57.0 billion world-wide, \$12.0 billion US
- Adult Videos - \$20.0 billion
- Escort Services - \$11.0 billion
- Magazines - \$7.5 billion
- Sex Clubs - \$5.0 billion
- Phone Sex - \$4.5 billion
- Cable & Pay Per View - \$2.5 billion
- Internet - \$2.5 billion
- CD-Rom - \$1.5 billion
- Novelties - \$1.0 billion
- Other - \$1.5 billion

- Porn revenue is larger than the combined revenues of all professional football, baseball and basketball franchises.
- US porn revenue exceeds the combined revenues of ABC, CBS, and NBC (6.2 billion).
- Child pornography generates \$3 billion annually.

Internet Porn Statistics

- Pornographic web sites - 4.2 million (12% of total web sites)
- Pornographic pages - 372 million
- Daily pornographic search engine requests - 68 million (25% of total search engine requests)
- Daily pornographic emails - 2.5 billion (8% of total emails)
- Average daily pornographic emails/use - 4.5 per internet user
- Monthly Pornographic downloads (Peer-to-peer) - 1.5 billion (35% of all downloads)
- Daily Gnutella “child pornography” requests - 116 thousand. Web sites offering illegal child pornography 100,000 +
- Sexual solicitations of youth made in chat rooms - 89%
- Youths who received sexual solicitation - 20%
- Worldwide visitors to porn web sites - 72 million annually

Children’s Exposure to Pornography

- Average age of first Internet exposure to pornography - 11 years old
- Largest consumer of Internet pornography - 12-17 age group
- 15-17 year olds having multiple hard-core exposures - 80%
- 8-16 year olds having viewed porn online - 90% (most while doing homework)
- 7-17 year olds who freely give out home address - 29%
- 7-17 year olds who freely give out email address - 14%
- Children’s characters linked to thousands of porn links - 26 (including Pokeman and Action Man)

Adult Internet Porn Statistics

- Men admitting to accessing pornography at work - 20%
- US adults who regularly visit Internet pornography web sites - 40 million
- Promise Keeper men who viewed pornography in the last week - 53%
- Christians who said pornography is a major problem in the home - 47%
- Adults admitting to Internet sexual addiction - 10%
- Breakdown of male/female visitors to pornography sites - 72% male - 28% female

Women and Pornography

- Women admitting to accessing pornography at work - 13%
- Women keeping their cyber activities secret - 70%
- Women who struggle with pornography addiction - 17%
- Women, more than men, are likely to act out their behaviors in real life, such as having multiple partners, casual sex, or affairs.
- Women favor chat rooms 2x more than men.
- Ratio of female to male visitors to all adult web sites 1 in 3
- Number of women accessing adult web sites each month - 9.4 million

What the Bible Says

Romans 1:27-28 – In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

Romans 6:11-13 – Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 – Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19-21 – Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 5:3-5 – But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Hebrews 13:4 – Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

Colossians 3:5 – Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience.

Time to Talk

It is time that we begin to open up with our spouses and with our children and address the reality of this issue.

Pornography is known as “the dirty little secret” because no one wants to talk about it. There

is a huge fear that if we identify the problem it will make it worse and a misconception that if we ignore the problem it will go away.

Parents Talk With Your Children

“Oh my kids don’t have any clue about the things you are talking about here today!” If you continue to believe this you are only enabling your children to enter into this struggle.

- 62% of parents of teenagers are unaware that their children have accessed objectionable web sites (Yankelovich Partners Study, September 30, 1999).
- 9 in 10 kids, 8-16 years old have viewed online, mostly accidentally while doing homework (UK News Telegraph, NOP Research Group, 1/07/02).
- 89% of sexual solicitations of youth were made in either chat rooms or instant messages (Pew Study reported in JAMA, 2001).

Your kids probably know more than you do about the internet, chat rooms, & your computer. There are all sorts of sites that youth frequent today that have the ability to be very destructive. Many of you have probably heard of MYSFACE.COM. This site which was originally created for music sites and fan pages has now turned into a place full of dangerous information about your children, locations of residence, and a hub for sexual material.

If you really want to know what your kid knows, look at their MYSFACE account; look at their filesharing software or maybe you know it as their place to download music. Educate yourself and get involved in your child’s lives!

How young is too young to talk to my child about pornography?

One of the primary privileges of being a parent is to have the opportunity to prepare children to appropriately embrace the world around them. They look to us to guide, protect, love, and teach them. But their developing minds and hearts are not automatically prepared to understand everything that life will throw at them. Parents have the responsibility of guarding their minds from unnecessary information while at the same time preparing them for the harsh realities of our world and of their child's inevitable future.

As parents, we need to take seriously our responsibility to be gatekeepers – attempting to protect and appropriately introduce mature concepts to our children. At the same time we must understand that in reality, conversations about key life matters must begin in the cradle. From the day we bring them home from the hospital, they begin picking up on the cues we send them about everything. Children are absorbers. They are constantly studying the world around them and asking questions. While mentally their minds cannot grasp everything they experience, their eyes take it all in. But they take their cues about how to respond to it all from the adults nearby – especially parents. In other words, they often learn to attach emotion to an object or subject based upon the emotional clues they receive from others.

Begin early to prepare your child for those later conversations you will need to have with him about important topics – including sex and pornography. That doesn't mean that they need to know everything early, it means that you are already consciously or unconsciously laying the foundation for communication patterns and for talking about anything and everything with your child. You may not even have to use the word “pornography” initially. You're providing cues for the child to understand that while our bodies and sex are both beautiful things from God, He provides important instructions to help us keep them safe and enjoy them appropriately.

**My child asked me yesterday, "What is porn?"
What do I say?**

Pray – Think – Prepare – Pray

When introducing something new to your child, it's always important to pray for God to prepare your child's heart to receive the information – and for God to give you the appropriate words to say – and the wisdom to know how much to say. Asking God to guide you in the timing of your conversation is important too.

Ask yourself,

“How much does my child need to know about this at this point in her life?”

“How much will he be able to understand or comprehend about it?”

“When is the best time to talk about this with him?”

“What does she already know?”

“What questions can I anticipate she will ask as we talk?”

Remember, your son or daughter is already taking cues from you and society. The commercials and videos they watch – the music they hear – the pictures they see in magazines, on billboards or on the Internet are all laying a foundation for how they understand what is appropriate and inappropriate. Therefore, protecting your child from concepts beyond their comprehension is critical while, at the same time, intentionally laying groundwork for the future. Because of our culture's obsession with the body and sex, it is safe to anticipate that you will need to talk about these things before you naturally feel ready to talk about them. But in another sense you have already been talking about them through the verbal and nonverbal interactions you've been having with your child. Your conversations about sensitive subjects like pornography will be built on those interactions. So it's important to start early by laying a foundation of safety to talk about anything and everything.

When it comes to talking about pornography, it is important to be in tune with your own feelings. It is likely that your child will pick up on those feelings. When talking about any sensitive issue with children, it is best to talk calmly and in a casual tone of voice. Don't lecture; just speak like you're having a normal conversation.

For smaller children, give them only enough information to satisfy their curiosity. Some parents think that since their child asked a big question, they need a big answer. Chances are they simply need your attention more than anything, and a simple response to help them move on to the next thing that will capture their attention.

Here are some possible responses for small children – each appropriate depending upon the age and stage development of your child.

- “Oh, that’s something that we’ll talk about when you’re a bit older. But I’m so glad you asked me about it because we need to talk about it soon. Where did you hear or see that word?”
- “You know how we’ve talked about how there are parts of our bodies that are wonderful, but private? Sometimes people don’t always understand that they are supposed to be private and they even take pictures of them. But God wants us to keep them special. Do you have any questions about what I’m saying?”
- “You know how we’ve talked about how it’s natural for people to be curious about their bodies? Sometimes people like to look at other people without their clothes on, so they find pictures of people without any clothes on at all. Those pictures are what we call “pornography. Have you ever seen any pictures like that?”
- “Porn is when people take pictures of other people without their clothes on and then sell it to other people. They don’t understand that God made our bodies special and doesn’t want us to do that. Do you remember seeing

that adult bookstore we drive by on the way to the grocery store? ...”

- “Sometimes kids have had people they know and love, want to take pictures of them without their clothes on. I hope that never happens to you; but if it does, I sure hope you’ll come tell me. But that’s called “porn” or ‘child pornography’ because it is pictures of kids. I want to protect you from people like that; so don’t ever be afraid to tell me if someone asks to take your picture– even if they tell you not to tell anyone. I promise that I will not get mad at you. Okay?”

Talking with older parents about how they have handled this issue is another good resource.

Wives Talk With Your Husbands; Husbands Talk With Your Wives

I know that you are afraid of what you might hear, but talking about it and coming out with one another is the most crucial step. Maybe there is a suspicion by one spouse, but you have allowed that suspicion to go unchallenged—now is the time. 99% of the time this habit is negatively affecting God’s plan for intimacy within your marriage.

Wives you cannot be okay with your husbands finding what they need through a magazine, the internet, or the television. They must find it in YOU and visa versa. This might be the hardest conversation in your life—today is the day to stop ignoring and start talking.

The Impact of Pornography & Sex Addiction on Relationships:

Many wives and husbands also feel responsible, blaming themselves for their spouses need to view online porn or act out sexually. They often believe if they were sexier or more sexually responsive and available, their husbands or wives would not have to or need to seek sexual fulfillment elsewhere. This simply is not true. One thing you need to

know as truth: YOU DIDN'T CAUSE IT AND YOU CANNOT CURE IT.

Common questions wives and husbands of sex addicts ask themselves:

Am I to blame?

If you are like most people in your situation, your spouse was probably struggling with sexual sin long before he met you. It most likely began in childhood or adolescence, growing day-by-day and over the years, securing an unyielding grip on his life. All addictions get worse over time, much like that of an alcoholic. Over time any addiction will begin to erode away at the personhood of the individual. The addiction takes on a life of its own and has nothing to do with you. Nothing you were doing or not doing was making the addiction worse. You are there in their life and perhaps a witness to the behavioral changes because of the pornography's impact on their life, but it doesn't make you responsible. They would struggle with pornography no matter whom they married.

Will I ever be able to trust my spouse again?

You might be thinking, "I was promised so many times he or she would stop and I still catch him or her acting out. How can I trust them?" This is a question you should be asking. After all, they have lied to you, betrayed you, and you have lost intimacy and lost years and maybe even experienced financial losses. Trust takes time; sometimes a long time, to rebuild. Trust can never be regained until there is a change in his behavior.

Is there any hope for our relationship?

Yes, if he or she is willing to do the work that is required to recover. It has been my experience that they can become even more emotionally intimate with you than either of you have ever experienced.

There is hope if you also do the work necessary to recover. You have been damaged, betrayed, lied to and hurt over the

years. You are going to need to heal too. This is your personal responsibility. You cannot blame him if you do not heal.

YOUTH. SINGLE, DIVORCED —EVERYONE ELSE — GO PUBLIC

The bottom line is, we need to begin to TALK. People need to hear your story, they need to know that someone has experienced victory; they need to hear how Christ changed your life. TELL YOUR STORY!

The #1 reason you must tell someone is so you can have accountability to others. Accountability is responsibility. It is being held responsible to somebody or something; making sure your actions are capable of explanation.

Helpful Family Resources

1. Visit Homeword's web site: www.homeword.com
2. Visit Family Life Today: www.familylife.com/articles
 - *Checking Your Child's Convictions About Pornography* by Dennis and Barbara Rainey
 - *Helping Your Child Avoid the Pornography Trap* by Dennis and Barbara Rainey
 - *Keeping Your Child from the Internet's Dark Side* by Mike Pickle and David Boehi
 - *The Dangers of Pornography* by Dennis and Barbara Rainey
 - *Teaching Your Child to Make Wise Media Entertainment Choices* by Dennis and Barbara Rainey
 - *Protecting Your Child in an X-Rated World* by Frank York & Jan LaRue
3. Purchase *Preparing Your Son for Every Man's Battle* by Stephen Arterburn (boys 11-15 yrs.): www.newlife.com
4. Purchase *How To Talk To Your Kids About Porn* DVD: www.xxxchurch.com