

Pornography - The Secret War

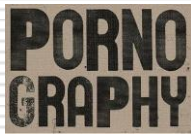
Pr Les Ackie

The Enemy's Strategy

For all that *is* in the world, the **lust of the flesh**, and the **lust of the eyes**, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

1 John 2:16

A Definition



Any sexually explicit image or writing designed to arouse sexual desire

The Problem



Pornography is a multi-billion pound industry in which users cross ethnic, age, gender and religious barriers

Problems with Pornography



What's the problem with pornography?

1. Pornography violates the divine purpose for sexual experience

Genesis 2:24



Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Genesis 2:24

1. Distorts The Divine Purpose of Sexual Experience

Now the body *is* not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

1 Corinthians 6:13

Masturbation is a violation of the sacredness of the body

2. Pornography feeds on lust and fantasy

But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matthew 5:28

2. Pornography feeds on lust and fantasy



The first work of those who would reform is to purify the imagination.

Mind Character & Personality, vol.2, 595

3. The use of pornography is habit-forming

Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?

Romans 6:16

You sow a thought . . .

3. The use of pornography is habit-forming



“The ever increasing desire for ever decreasing pleasure”

3. The use of pornography is habit-forming



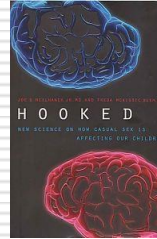
A persistent and escalating pattern of compulsive behaviour practiced in spite of increasing negative consequences to self and others

The Price to Pay

- 97% lower self esteem
- 96% significant guilt & shame
- 94% isolation & loneliness
- 91% hopelessness & despair
- 90% violated core beliefs
- 88% felt like two people
- 82% living in fear
- 68% loss of life goals

(Patrick Carnes - Don't Call It Love, 93)

3. The use of pornography is habit-forming



Sexual experiences stimulate the production of the brain chemical dopamine which plays a role in the addictive nature of sex

3. The use of pornography is habit-forming

Addictions often arise out of attempts to anaesthetise emotional pain

- approval
- food
- sex
- video games
- drugs and alcohol
- gambling
- Bible study

4. Supports an industry built on exploitation and abuse



If there were no users, there would be no industry

5. Deadens sensibility to spiritual things



Pornography conditions the mind to an attitude of self-gratification

What to do?

“That each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honourable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God”
1 Thess. 4:4, 5, NIV

What to do?



It is difficult to overcome addiction by yourself

What to do?

1. Confess it to God
 2. Develop self-awareness
 3. Research self-help resources
 4. Admit your struggle to someone you trust and make yourself accountable
 5. Remove the stimuli from your life
 6. Consider getting professional help if necessary
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There is Hope!



Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage
Micah 7:18
