

Morality: Choosing God  
Lesson 6 – Pornography is a Sin

1. Here's a quick quiz for you:
  - 1.1. The strongest man in the Bible was...Samson.
  - 1.2. The wisest man in the Bible was...Solomon.
  - 1.3. The one in the Bible called "a man after God's own heart" was...David.
  - 1.4. Here's the quiz: What did all these men of God have in common? All of them—the strongest man in the Bible, the smartest man in the Bible, and arguably the most godly man in the Bible—struggled with sexual temptation and lost.
2. We must be proactive in teaching how to be different from the world around us. Our goal is simple: to rear godly boys and girls who don't fall to sexual temptation.
3. Parenting has never been easy, but in today's times and in today's society it can be extra tough. The struggle with parenting today seems to be that we teach our children one thing, and then society, and often their peers, teach them the exact opposite. It's pretty obvious that we live in a time now where children are bombarded from a young age with an over-sexualized society. Sex sells. Advertisers, movies, magazines, music, websites, and other things dish it out in large amounts.
  - 3.1. "Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth." – Psalm 127:3-4
  - 3.2. The Bible offers much concerning the topic of sex within the marriage. The Song of Solomon, through poetic metaphor, tells of the beauty of marital romance, love, and sex.
    - 3.2.1. The Hebrew writer tells that the marriage bed is undefiled or honorable (Hebrews 13:4).
    - 3.2.2. Further, in the first letter to the Corinthians, Paul talks of the importance of the sexual relationship. He speaks of how sex should not be withheld from one another in the marriage, except by consent for a time for spiritual reasons (1 Corinthians 7:3-5).
    - 3.2.3. Further, turning to the Bible for guidance in teaching children about sex is also of great benefit. The wise man Solomon says in Proverbs 1:7-10:
      - 3.2.3.1. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck. My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent."
      - 3.2.3.2. Just as Solomon tells children to listen to the teaching of parents, parents need to provide instruction to their children, including God's design for healthy sexuality. Silence on the matter will only give Satan a chance to teach and tempt.
4. Here are some shocking examples of how our culture has become obsessed with sex.
  - 4.1. Financial
    - 4.1.1. The pornography industry is an annual \$57 billion worldwide business.

- 4.1.2. That's larger revenue than all the combined revenues of all the professional football, baseball and basketball franchises.
- 4.1.3. The U.S. pornography revenue exceeds the combined revenues of ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC.
- 4.2. Internet Porn Statistics
  - 4.2.1. Pornographic websites – 4.2 million (12% of total websites)
  - 4.2.2. Pornographic pages accessed – 372 million daily
  - 4.2.3. Pornographic search engine requests – 68 million (25% of total search engine requests)
  - 4.2.4. Daily pornographic emails – 2.5 billion (8% of total emails)
  - 4.2.5. Average daily pornographic emails/user – 4.5 per Internet user
  - 4.2.6. Monthly pornographic downloads (Peer to peer) – 1.5 billion (35% of all downloads)
  - 4.2.7. Worldwide visitors to pornographic web sites – 72 million annually
  - 4.2.8. According to the Safe Families website, as many as 70% of men between the ages of 18 and 34 visit a pornographic website at least once in a typical month.
  - 4.2.9. It is also reported that nearly 10% of all adults admit to having an Internet sexual addiction.
- 4.3. Children's Exposure to Pornography
  - 4.3.1. Average age of first Internet exposure to pornography – 11 years old
  - 4.3.2. Largest consumer of Internet pornography – the 12-17 year old age group
- 5. What Is Pornography?
  - 5.1. Word comes from Greek words - pornos meaning fornication, illicit sexual behavior, etc., and graphe meaning writing. Pornography consists of magazines, books, movies, videos, music, etc. which portray illicit sexual behavior intended to arouse sexual desire - which God intended to be fulfilled only in the marriage relationship.
- 6. What Does The Bible Say About Pornography?
  - 6.1. Pornography Is Distinctively Evil (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22).
  - 6.2. Pornography Is Divisive To Families (Genesis 1:27).
  - 6.3. Pornography Is Destructive To Children (Mark 9:42).
  - 6.4. Pornography Is Deceptive To Couples (Proverbs 9:17, Proverbs 14:12).
  - 6.5. Pornography Is Distorting God's View of Sex (Genesis 1:27).
  - 6.6. Pornography Is De-humanizing of Women (John 4:1-42, John 8:1-11).
  - 6.7. Pornography Is Polluting Men (Matthew 5:28-29).
  - 6.8. Pornography Is Demoralizing Sex (Leviticus 18:22-24).
  - 6.9. Pornography Is Defending Violence (Matthew 5:38-48).
  - 6.10. Pornography Is Damaging For Our Community (Ephesians 4:19).
  - 6.11. Pornography Is Defeated At Home (Proverbs 22:6).
  - 6.12. Pornography Is Deadly (Galatians 5:9).
- 7. Who Are Deceived by Pornography (Satan's lies)?
  - 7.1. Those Who Are Addicted To Pornography Are Deceived (Hebrews 11:25, James 1:13-15).
  - 7.2. Those Who Are Affected By Pornography Are Deceived (Ephesians 5-6).

- 7.3. Those Who Have Accepted Pornography Are Deceived (Ephesians 6, 1 Peter 5:8).
8. The Answer to the grip of Pornography
- 8.1. The first line of defense against the attacks of a sexualized society is to guard our hearts and minds from idols (1 John 5:21). Our senses, especially our eyes, are the source of sight for our hearts, and by protecting our eyes from alluring sights, we guard our inner sacred space from evil (Luke 11:34-35).
- 8.2. We are to flee from lust (2 Timothy 2:22) because sin is the child of our lust (James 1:15), and sin displaces God within our hearts (Isaiah 59:1-2). We may not be able to change an over-sexualized society; however, we can change the way we relate to society.
- 8.3. We must protect our hearts to preserve our relationship with ourselves, and this is one way we can love ourselves. When we fall, we must restore the rightful place for God in the source of our desire, our hearts.
- 8.4. That is what David eventually did through God's help. God still provides deliverance and He continually breaks into our sacred space, our hearts, and drives out anything and everything that has no business in the space reserved for our Lord and Master—if we will only let Him.
- 8.5. Do not fool ourselves into thinking this vile material doesn't affect you.
- 8.5.1. 1 Cor. 15:33: "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."
- 8.5.2. We are told here that it is difficult if not impossible to expose oneself to such media and remain unaffected.
9. May you guard your eyes and heart from all evil.