

CONSIDERING THE
**DANGERS OF
PORNOGRAPHY**

GOD'S GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS AS
THEY RAISE THEIR CHILDREN TO HAVE
HEALTHY SEXUAL VIEWS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

i. INTRODUCTION	3
1. PORNOGRAPHY IS ANTI-GOD	5
2. PORNOGRAPHY IS ANTI-SELF	9
3. PORNOGRAPHY IS ANTI-SEX	12
4. PORNOGRAPHY IS ANTI-RELATIONSHIP . .	15
5. PORNOGRAPHY IS ANTI-WOMAN	17
6. PORNOGRAPHY IS ANTI-HUMAN	20



INTRODUCTION: **UNDERSTAND YOURSELF**

UNDERSTAND YOURSELF

Protect your child, but also protect yourself.

Before parents can begin helping their children understand the dangers of pornography, it is necessary that they first gain a better understanding themselves. The first order of business in protecting kids from pornography is to **acknowledge that it is out there and be aware of the dangers that it presents.**

It would be beneficial to provide a definition of pornography: **pornography or pornographic material is any visual content containing descriptions or depictions of either sexual organs or sexual activity with the intended purpose of stimulating and arousing sexual feelings.** In his book Pornography: A Christian Critique John Court defines pornography as “nihilistic.”

Nihilism, the rejection of all religious and moral principles, is the end result of pornography. That is the might of pornography. It is one of Satan’s most powerful tools, because through it he has the power to slowly but surely attack and poison so many different aspects of our lives.



THIS WEEK

11 MILLION KIDS

WILL VISIT PORN WEBSITES.

Learn how to help them break the cycle of guilt and sin.

conquerorsthroughchrist.net



PART ONE:
PORNOGRAPHY
IS ANTI-GOD

Pornography binds what the Gospel has freed.

First and foremost, **pornography is a sin against God.** In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke these words regarding adultery: **“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart”** (Matthew 5:27-28).

If pornography is defined as that which is intended to arouse sexual thoughts and feelings (lust) then **it is in its very essence a sin against the Sixth Commandment.** This includes not only the viewing of pornography, but also any participation in its creation, promotion, or distribution.

The power of God’s gospel is freedom. Through His gospel God has freed us from sin. Concerning this Paul writes, **“When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** (Romans 6:20-23)

Pornography binds what the Gospel has freed.

*The Power of the Gospel is **Freedom***

- Jesus testified to this when He said, “**If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free**” (John 8:31-32)
- and, “**if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed**” (John 8:36).

The Gospel also gives us **freedom** from sin’s condemnation:

- “**through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death**” (Romans 8:2);

freedom from the fear of death:

- “**for to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain**” (Philippians 1:21);

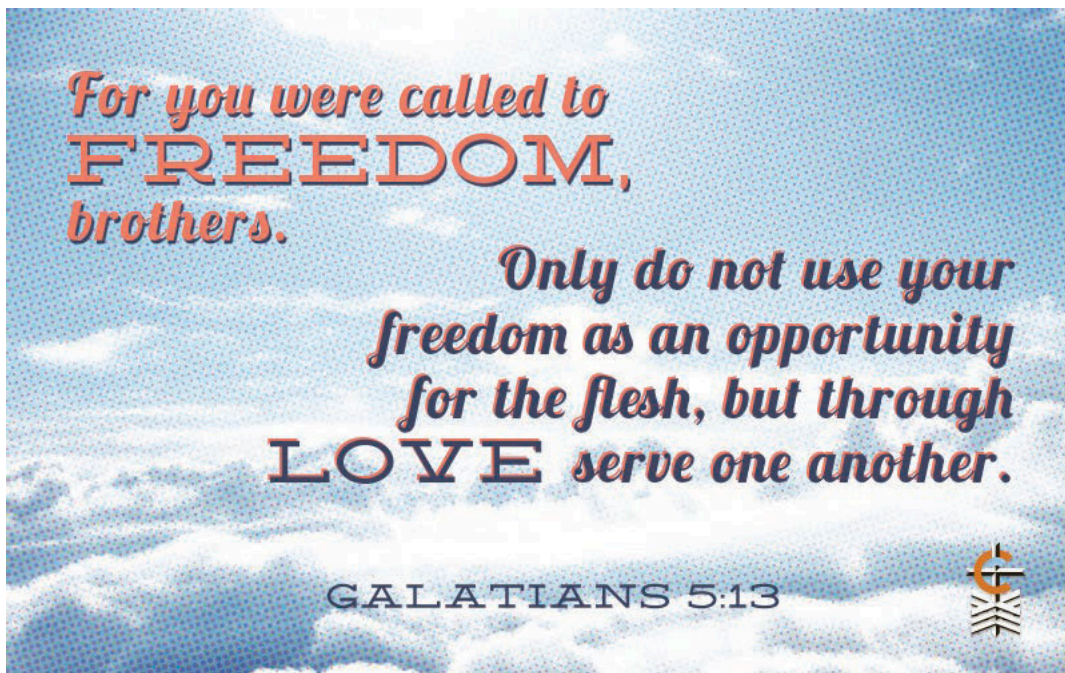
and **freedom** to come before God with confidence:

- “**we have [a high priest] who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need**” (Hebrews 4:15-16).

ANTI-GOD

Pornography binds what the Gospel has freed.

On the flip side, **the power of pornography is bondage.** Through it Satan seeks to entrap the soul, enslaving it once again to the sin from which Christ has freed us. Those who find themselves caught in the habitual sin of viewing pornography will find it incredibly difficult to stop. In time they will begin to doubt their faith, their confidence before God will diminish, and they will begin once again to fear the punishment of sin and the death it brings. Pornography is evil and through it Satan attempts to obscure and conceal all that Christ has done.

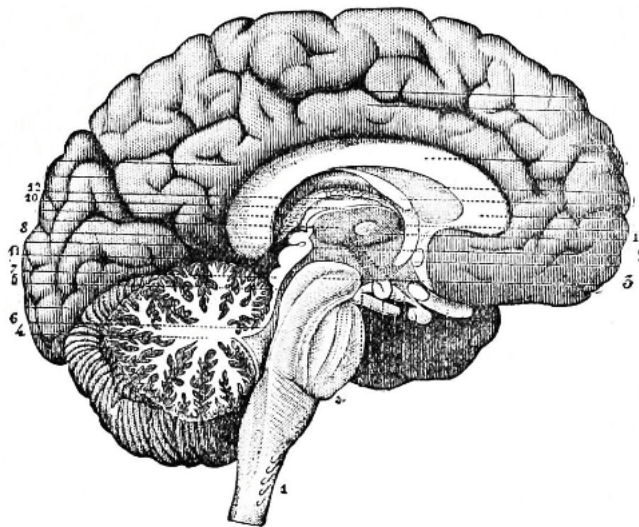


PART TWO:
PORNOGRAPHY
IS ANTI-SELF

Pornography has real, physical consequences.

Not only is viewing pornography a sin against the sixth commandment, **it also damages the viewer's body**, limiting the brain's ability to function in a normal capacity.

In recent years neuroscientists have proven that pornography is addictive. As might be expected, when such findings endanger a multi-billion dollar worldwide industry, these studies have received considerable scrutiny and attack yet the evidence and facts remain undeniable. **Viewing pornography has much the same effect on the body as hard drugs such as cocaine and heroin.** The viewing of pornography releases a potent combination of chemicals into the brain including dopamine, oxytocin, vasopressin, norepinephrine, and serotonin. The release is triggered in the brain's limbic system and then spreads to the remainder of the brain through neuronetworks.



Pornography has real, physical consequences.

The brain's limbic system functions subconsciously, it cannot be willfully controlled. This is the way God created us so that survival appetites for oxygen, water, food, sleep, etc. are not something we have to consciously control. The limbic system also controls the body's appetite for sex. The conscious part of our brain, the prefrontal cortex, is able to "put the brakes" on the impulses generated by the limbic system. We can for example decide not to eat, hold our breath, or refrain from sexual activity. **However, when the limbic system is left unrestrained, its impulses grow stronger and our decision making capabilities weaken.**

What this means is that **the longer** pornography viewing is allowed to go unchecked, **the stronger** the desire to view more will become and our physical ability to deny those desires will weaken. What makes pornography addiction even more powerful is that the release of the chemicals which set off this chain reaction from the limbic system can be triggered so easily, either by simply looking at a picture or even recalling a picture that has already been seen!

Fortunately, the effects pornography has on the brain are *not irreversible*. There is also evidence that such damage can be healed and the capacity to restrain the unwanted behavior regained.

PART THREE:
PORNOGRAPHY
IS ANTI-SEX

ANTI-SEX

Not paradox but bait-and-switch.

To say that pornography is anti-sex might seem at first to be paradoxical. After all, one might ask, what is pornography if not sex? The truth of the matter is that **pornography is against everything that sex represents**. God gave sex as a gift to be enjoyed within the bounds of his institution of marriage: **“Haven’t you read,”** [Jesus] replied, **“that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate”** (Matthew 19:4-6). The author to the Hebrews writes: **“Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure”** (Hebrews 13:4).

Does pornography seek to keep the marriage bed pure?

Does it keep God’s gift of sex within the bounds of marriage where he intended it?

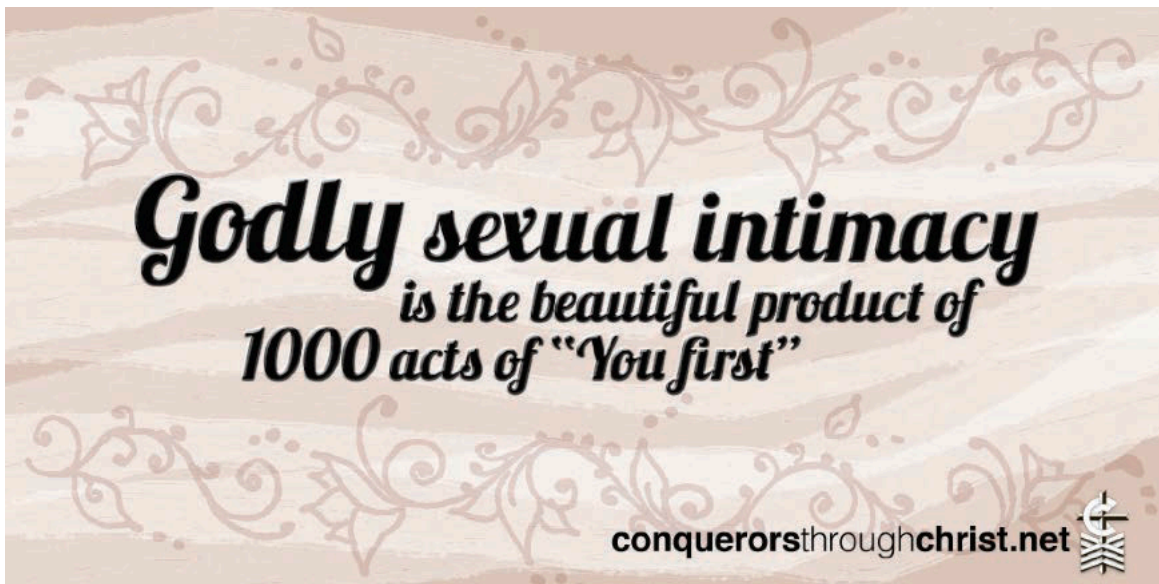
No! On the contrary it perverts the minds of those who view it distorting their view of the wonderful gift we have from God. It reprograms the mind and sexual drive with the thoughts that sex is purely recreational and nothing more, that bodies viewed in pornography are more attractive than bodies viewed in real life, and that sex is the number one purpose of any relationship or person.

ANTI-SEX

Not paradox but bait-and-switch.

Sex is a beautiful gift which God has given to humanity in which a man or woman can give of themselves to their spouse in a loving and intimate way. Pornography destroys this turning sex into a self-serving act rather than a self-giving action.

(The case for masturbation and the question of whether or not it is inherently sinful is a topic that has long been debated. Let it be sufficient here to say that any masturbation that is accompanied or brought on by the viewing of pornography and intended for one's own sexual gratification is a sinful perversion of God's gift of sex.)



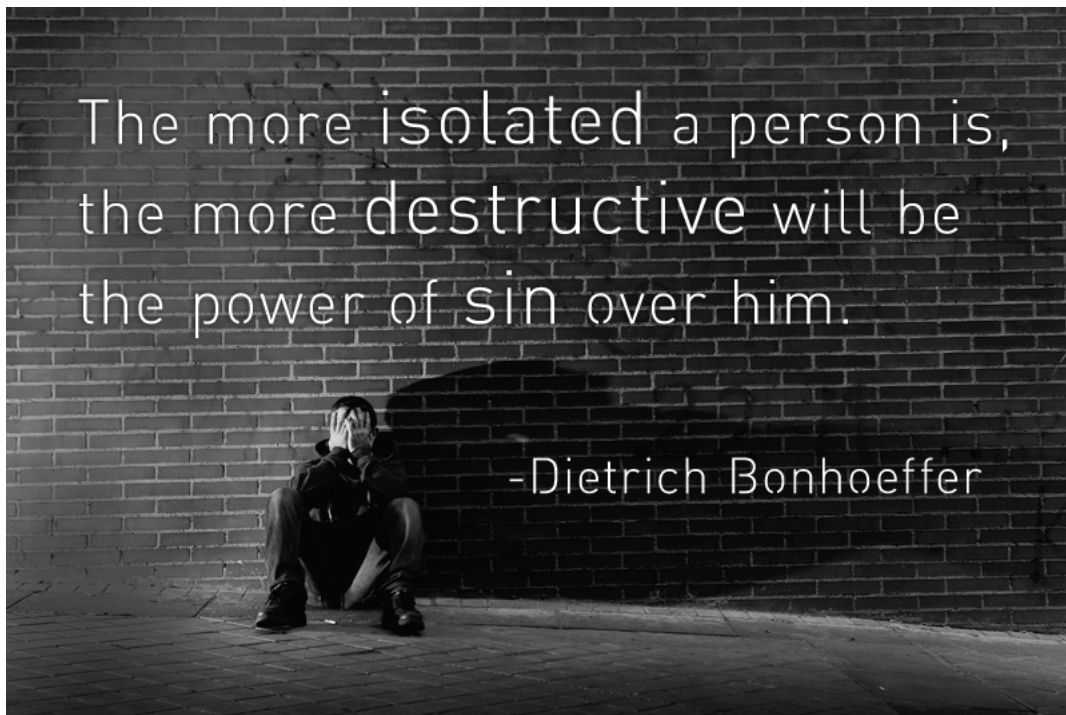
PART FOUR:
PORNOGRAPHY
IS ANTI-RELATIONSHIP

ANTI-RELATIONSHIP

Not just anti-marriage.

Users of pornography will suffer detriment in almost every of human relationship. Relations with spouses, family, friends, and even employers can be damaged and even destroyed by pornography.

Pornography produces the false perception that sex and sexual pleasure are entirely divorced from the concept of marriage. It requires a disconnection from “‘real’ life and ‘real’ people.” Yet such connections are the fundamental basis of relationships! Pornography also encourages promiscuity and relations with multiple people through the inception of the idea that sexual pleasure requires lots of practice with lots of partners.



PART FIVE:
PORNOGRAPHY
IS ANTI-WOMAN

Pornography binds what the Gospel has freed.

Among the **most evident and detrimental** dangers of pornography are the devaluation and objectification of women. Pornography sends a clear message: women exist for the satisfaction of sexual urges and desires. This not only impacts boys and men, who will begin to objectify women themselves if exposed to enough pornography, but also girls and women who will be tempted to change the way they act and present themselves in an attempt to appear more attractive.

Pornography changes the way boys look at girls. As stated above, the physical features of the women seen in pornography idealize what is beautiful and pleasing to look at. In her article, *The Porn Myth*, Naomi Wolf writes, “For most of human history, erotic images have been reflections of, or celebrations of, or substitutes for, real naked women. For the first time in human history, the images’ power and allure have supplanted that of real naked women. Today, real naked women are just bad porn.”

Statements like that may make the reader cringe but that is the danger pornography poses to those who fall into its trap. Because of the addictive nature of pornography, more and more stimulus is needed to meet the same level of fulfillment. As a result *pornography has grown increasingly more violent and graphic over the years*. This increase in violence is almost entirely directed toward the women involved in pornography.

PART SIX:
PORNOGRAPHY
IS ANTI-HUMAN

ANTI-HUMAN

Pornography makes us animals.

One of the problems with such increases in violence and vulgarity is that those who view pornography will become accustomed to it and after a time even expect it. **Over time the conscience of someone who looks at pornography will grow weaker and weaker** until offensive and immoral acts that would originally have produced feelings of disgust, shame, and guilt become almost second nature.

Admit that porn is dangerous.

Then, check out the next two ebooks in this series, **“Warning Kids about Pornography”** and **“Correcting Kids Who Use Pornography.”**