

# Elephants in the Church

## *"Pornography"*

(Matthew 5:27-28)



- Introduction:
1. Human sexuality is powerful! It has the power to unite and divide.
  2. I am convinced that pornography may very well be the biggest problem the church is facing today.
  3. Unless we are the exception to the rule, we are in a room full of people who are struggling with the sin of pornography.
  4. And yet, many pulpits remain silent on this issue.
  5. In this lesson, I want us to consider the pervasiveness, the effects, the sinfulness of pornography and the remedy.

### I. The Pervasiveness Of Pornography

- A. The United States leads all other countries in pornography viewing (PornHub 2016 report).
- B. There are 92 billion videos watched on this website alone (PornHub 2016 report).
- C. 30% of the Internet industry is pornography (Stephen Yagielowicz).
- D. 11 years-old - the average age of exposure to pornography (PornHub 2016 report).
- E. 64% of Christian men view pornography monthly (Proven Men Ministries).
- F. 31% of woman are regular viewers of pornography (PornHub 2016 report).
- G. One of the largest contributing factors for it's pervasiveness is that pornography is:
  1. Accessible.
  2. Affordable.
  3. Anonymous.

### II. The Effects of Pornography

- A. It diminishes trust and self-worth within marriage.
- B. It normalizes promiscuity.
- C. It desensitizes the user.
- D. It sexualizes innocent, daily contact with people (2 Peter 2:14).
- E. It promotes selfishness rather than a caring relationship.
- F. It creates unrealistic expectations which results in dissatisfaction with ones spouse.
- G. It destroys marriages.
  1. 66% of divorces cited pornography as a contributing factor (American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers).
- H. It creates an addiction.
  1. Cocaine is a stimulant which increases dopamine.
  2. Heroin is an opiate that has a relaxing effect.
  3. Pornography involves both; plus, unlike drugs that the body will metabolize, pornography cannot be metabolized and will be stored in our memories.
- I. With pornography comes a progression into sin:
  1. Exposure.
  2. Addiction.
  3. Desensitization.
  4. Escalation.
  5. Acting out.

### III. The Sinfulness of Pornography

- A. (Matthew 5:27-28).
- B. (Proverbs 4:23).
- C. (Proverbs 23:7).
- D. (1 Corinthians 6:18-20).
- E. (Matthew 7:15-20).
- F. As sinful as pornography is; it does not rise to the level of “fornication.”
  - 1. (Matthew 19:9) Fornication is the only ground for divorce and remarriage.
  - 2. Many are using pornography (which is a form of sexual immorality) as grounds for divorce and remarriage.
    - a. Note that “sexual immorality” is an insufficient translation.
    - b. Immodesty, watching certain movies, telling “dirty” jokes, etc. are all forms of “sexual immorality,” but do not constitute pornography.
  - 3. All adultery is fornication, but not all fornication is adultery. Likewise, all fornication is sexual immorality, but not all sexual immorality is fornication.
  - 4. Fornication always involves contact and is defined by some form of sexual intercourse.
  - 5. Pornography doesn’t rise to that level, but would certainly be condemned by such words as lasciviousness, uncleanness, and lewdness (Galatians 5:19; Romans 1:24; 2 Peter 2:10).

### IV. How To Overcome Pornography

- A. Countless people struggle with this sin and wish to be free of it, but find themselves going back to it time and time again.
- B. As bad as Egypt was, once delivered, the Israelites wanted to go back (Exodus 1:11, 13; 14:11-12; 16:3).
- C. How do we resist the call to return?
  - 1. Realize that faith in Jesus is the key to overcoming sin (Romans 6:15-22; 1 John 5:4).
  - 2. Realize pornography is not victimless.
  - 3. Be accountable. Change your habits.
  - 4. Realize you can change (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).
  - 5. Realize the eternal consequences of pornography (Job. 31:1).

- Conclusion:
- 1. Due to its nature, pornography is something that isn’t talked about much, but it is an elephant in the room.
  - 2. But too much is at stake by not talking about it.
  - 3. It’s epidemic in our churches that must be addressed and corrected.
  - 4. Remember, without holiness, we will not see God (Hebrews 12:14).