

Disciplemakers Intensive: Death By Porn

A SOBERING WARNING AND PROCLAMATION OF HOPE IN A SATURATED SOCIETY.

August 27, 2021

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SESSION ONE: A SOBER WARNING FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

1) Indulging in Pornography Leads to Eternal Judgement¹

- ***Ephesians 5:3*** But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ***4*** Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ***5*** For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), ***has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.***
- ***1 Corinthians 6:9*** Or do you not know that the unrighteous ***will not inherit the kingdom of God?*** Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ***10*** nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will ***inherit the kingdom of God.***
- ***Colossians 3:5*** Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ***6*** On account of these ***the wrath of God is coming.***
- ***Matthew 5:27*** "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'***28*** But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ***29*** If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that ***your whole body be thrown into hell.*** ***30*** And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members ***than that your whole body go into hell.***
- ***Matthew 18:7*** "Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes!***8*** And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be ***thrown into the eternal fire.*** ***9*** And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be ***thrown into the hell of fire.***

¹ I have read SOOOOOO SOOOOOO much in preparation for these talks – that I trust you'll understand that essentially none of what I say is unique to me – but rather reflections and gleanings from a myriad of books and articles and preachers. While we are providing some recommended resources ... I'll make particular mention of the fact that structurally I've been really helped with distilling down my thoughts and study by an article entitled "Seven Reasons You Should Not Indulge in Pornography" by *David Naselli*, *John Owen's work "On the Mortification of Sin," a blog post entitled "Never Harmless, Never Private, Never Safe" by Marshall Segal, and a sermon entitled "Avoiding the Sin of Pornography" by Dr. Jack Miller.*

- **1 John 2:15** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16** *For all that is in the world--the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions--is not from the Father but is from the world.* **17** And the world is passing away along with its desires, *but whoever does the will of God abides forever.*

2) *Indulging in Pornography Poisons our Relationship with God.*

3) *Similarly, Indulging in Pornography Stunts our Spiritual Growth.*

4) *Indulging in Pornography Hinders our Usefulness to God and His People.*

- **2 Timothy 2: 20** Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. **21** Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. **22** So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

5) *Indulging in Pornography Sears our Consciences and Thus Leads Us Into Deeper and Deeper Immorality.*

- **Hebrews 3:7** Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, **8** do not *harden your hearts* as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, **9** where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. **10** Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.' **11** As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest.'" **12** Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. **13** But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," *that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.* **14** For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. **15** As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, *do not harden your hearts* as in the rebellion." **16** For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? **17** And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? **18** And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? **19** So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.
- **1 Timothy 4: 1** Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, **2** through the insincerity of liars whose *consciences are seared*, **3** who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. **4** For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, **5** for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.
- **Romans 2: 14** For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. **15** They show that the work of the law is *written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them* **16** on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

- **Romans 6: 19** I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

6) *Indulging in Pornography Robs God of Worship & Defiles the Temple of the Holy Spirit.*

- **1 Corinthians 6:9** ... do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, **10** nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **11** And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. **12** "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. **13** "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"--and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. **14** And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. **15** Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! **16** Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." **17** But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. **18** Flee from sexual immorality. *Every other sin* a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. **19** Or do you not know that *your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit* within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, **20** for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
- **1 Thessalonians 4:3** For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; **4** that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, **5** not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; **6** that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. **7** For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. **8** Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

7) *Habitually Indulging in Pornography Leads to the Heavy Hand of the Lord*

- **Romans 1:24** Therefore God *gave them up* in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, **25** because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. **26** For this reason God *gave them up* to dishonorable passions... **28** And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, *God gave them up* to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done...
- **Psalms 32:3** For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. **4** For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

8) *Habitually Indulging in Pornography Reveals the Brokenness of our Hearts*

SESSION TWO: A SOBERING WARNING ... IN A SATURATED SOCIETY

Pornography Steals, Kills, and Destroys

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” John 10:10 (ESV)

Pornography is “a social toxin that destroys relationships, steals innocence, erodes compassion, and breeds violence.”

- National Center on Sexual Exploitation

Thesis: The cumulative evidence from peer-reviewed research literature, reports, and surveys demonstrate that pornography harms children and teenagers, contributes to the breakdown of the family, and fuels societal harms, like child sexual abuse, compulsive sexual behavior, violence against women, and commercial sexual exploitation.

A. Pornography Harms Children and Teenagers

1. Causes _____ and Psychological Harm
2. Leads to Unhealthy and _____ Notions of Sex
3. _____ Sexual Behavior
4. Promotes Sexual _____

B. Pornography Harms Marriages and Families

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” Matthew 5:27-28 (ESV)

1. Dissatisfaction with _____
2. Sense of _____ and Humiliation
3. Adultery
4. _____

C. Pornography Harms Society

1. Child Sexual _____
2. Compulsive Sexual _____
3. Violence Against _____
4. Commercial Sexual _____

The Bible is clear. Jesus came that we may have life and have it abundantly. God’s design for marriage and human sexuality is for our good and flourishing. But when we reject God’s Word and his purposes for us, we are giving the devil an opportunity to steal, kill, and destroy everything that is good in our life.

SESSION THREE: ... A PROCLAMATION OF GOSPEL HOPE

First Things First:

- **Romans 6:1** What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? **2** By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? **3** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. **6** We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, *so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.* **7** *For one who has died has been set free from sin.* **8** Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **9** We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. **10** For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. **11** So you also must consider yourselves *dead to sin and alive to God* in Christ Jesus. **12** Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. **13** Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. **14** For *sin will have no dominion over you*, since you are not under law but under grace. **15** What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! **16** Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? **17** *But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.* **19** I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as *slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.* **20** For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. **21** But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. **22** But *now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God*, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. **23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Colossians 3: **1** If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. **3** *For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.* **4** When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. **5** Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. **6** On account of these the wrath of God is coming. **7** *In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.* **8** But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. **9** Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices **10** and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.
- Galatians 5:1 *For freedom Christ has set us free*; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Our Only Hope For Lasting Change: The Expulsive Power of a New Affection

Psalm 32:1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. **2** Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. **4** For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

5 I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

6 Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. **7** You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. Selah

8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. **9** Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.

10 Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD. **11** Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

When our love for and astonishment of God increases - all our lesser loves lose their allure. When we experience the blessedness of walking in the light - walking in the dark becomes loses its appeal.

“A living, breathing relationship with the Savior of the world will drive porn out of your life quicker than anything else. When you turn your eyes to Jesus, there isn't room for anything else in your heart because he fills it up. When you open the blinds of a pitch-black room, the sunlight drives away the darkness.” - Heath Lambert, *Finally Free*, pgs 144-145

CONCLUDING REMARKS / RESOURCES / Q&A

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

Articles:

- “Seven Reasons You Should Not Indulge in Pornography,” Andrew David Naselli, *Themelios*, Volume 41, Issue 3
- “The Expulsive Power of a New Affection,” Thomas Chalmers <https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/Chalmers,%20Thomas%20-%20The%20Expulsive%20Power%20of%20a%20New%20Af.pdf>
- “Never Harmless, Never Private, Never Safe,” Marshall Segal <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/never-harmless-never-private-never-safe>
- “The Seduction of Pornography and the Integrity of Christian Marriage,” R. Albert Mohler Jr., <https://tinyurl.com/nunak79b>
- “Breaking Pornography Addiction,” David Powlison <https://www.ccef.org/breaking-pornography-addiction-part-1/>
- “9 Things You Should Know about Pornography and the Brain,” Joe Carter <https://tinyurl.com/yrwmhpah>
- “Porndemic,” Justin Taylor <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/porndemic/>
- “Seven Promises to Pray Against Porn,” J.A. Medders <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/seven-promises-to-pray-against-porn>
- “How Not to Fight Pornography,” David Briones <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-not-to-fight-pornography>
- “Every Woman’s Silent Struggle,” Marian Jacobs <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/every-womans-silent-struggle>

Books:

- *Wired for Intimacy*, William Struthers
- *Sexual Sanity for Men*, David White
- *Sexual Sanity for Women*, ed. Ellen Dykas
- *Blessed are the Pure*, Josh Sazdanoff
- *Pornography: Fighting for Purity*, Deepak Reju
- *On the Mortification of Sin*, John Owens
- *Finally Free*, Heath Lambert
- *Sexual Detox: A Guide for Guys Who Are Sick of Porn*, Tim Challies

Tech/Resources:

- Canopy - <https://canopy.us> (BLOCKER)
- Circle - <https://meetcircle.com> (BLOCKER)
- Covenant Eyes - <https://www.covenanteyes.com> (TRACKER)
- Movie/TV Show - <https://www.commonssensemedia.org>

Resources for Families/Parents:

- Mobicip (iPhone, Android, Chromebooks; through middle school)
- Boomerang (iOS and Android; through high school)
- Bark (social media; all ages)
- Circle with Disney (router filtering system; through middle school)
- CleanBrowsing (filtering service; all ages)

Books:

- *Good Pictures Bad Pictures: Porn-Proofing Today's Young Kids*, 2nd ed. by Kristen Jenson
- *Good Pictures Bad Pictures Jr.: A Simple Plan to Protect Young Minds* by Kristen Jenson
- *7 Lessons to Introduce Your Child to Biblical Sexuality* by Luke Gilkerson

Curriculum:

- Brain Defense (<https://www.defendyoungminds.com/brain-defense>) (Ages 8-12 video-based curriculum)