

Disciplemakers Intensive: Death By Porn Follow-Up Event
September 26th, 2021

REVIEW:

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

August 27, 2021 Notes

SESSION ONE: A SOBER WARNING FOR GOD’S PEOPLE

- 1) ***Indulging in Pornography Leads to Eternal Judgement***
Ephesians 5:3-5, **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**, Colossians 3:5-6, **Matthew 5:27-30, Matthew 18:7-9, 1 John 2:15-17**
- 2) ***Indulging in Pornography Poisons our Relationship with God.***
Revelation 2, Psalm 51, Psalm 32, Matthew 5
- 3) ***Similarly, Indulging in Pornography Stunts our Spiritual Growth.***
- 4) ***Indulging in Pornography Hinders our Usefulness to God and His People.***
2 Timothy 2:20-22
- 5) ***Indulging in Pornography Sears our Consciences and Thus Leads Us Into Deeper and Deeper Immorality.***
Hebrews 3:7-19, 1 Timothy 4:1-5, Romans 2:14-16, Romans 6:19
- 6) ***Indulging in Pornography Robs God of Worship & Defiles the Temple of the Holy Spirit.***
1 Corinthians 6:9-20, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8
- 7) ***Indulging in Pornography Leads to the Heavy Hand of the Lord***
Romans 1:24-28, **Psalm 32**
- 8) ***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

- a. Causes Emotional and Physical Harm
- b. Leads to Unhealthy and Unbiblical Notions of Sex
- c. Encourages Sexual Behavior

- d. Promotes Sexual Aggression

B. Pornography Harms Marriages and Families

- a. Dissatisfaction with Spouse
- b. Sense of Betrayal and Humiliation
- c. Adultery
- d. Divorce

C. Pornography Harms Society

- a. Child Sexual Abuse
- b. Compulsive Sexual Behavior
- c. Violence Against Women
- d. Commercial Sexual Exploitation

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: Only Those Who Are Saved Can Experience Freedom From Slavery to Sin

Romans 6:1-22, Colossians 3:1-10, Galatians 5:1

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

Psalm 32, Matthew 22:37

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

Disciplemakers Intensive Follow-Up: Death By Porn

Putting to Death the Deeds of the Flesh

September 26, 2021 Notes

Exodus 14: **13** And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. **14** The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

Exodus 17: **9** So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand." **10** So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

Passive & Active Obedience

Passive obedience is --- sit back and watch what the Lord is going to do.

- *He who began a good work in you is faithful to bring it to completion.*

Active obedience is --- pick up arms and go to war.

- *Discipline yourselves for the sake of godliness.*

The Call to Kill:

- **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.
- **Romans 8:1** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **2** For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death... **12** So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. **13** For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you *put to death the deeds of the body*, you will live.

(1) PUT TO DEATH YOUR SIN by knowing and meditating on the Word.

Romans 12: **1** I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. **2** Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

(a) Its Warnings

Ephesians 5:3-5, **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**, Colossians 3:5-6, **Matthew 5:27-30**, **Matthew 18:7-9**, **1 John 2:15-17**, Revelation 2, Psalm 51, Psalm 32, Matthew 5, 1 Corinthians 5-9, Hebrews 3:7-19, 1 Timothy 4:1-5, Romans 2:14-16, Romans 6:19

- “Take heed! This is the outcome of harboring your lust – the hardening of your heart, the searing of your conscience, the blinding of your mind, the dulling of your affections, and the deceiving of your whole soul.”
- John Owen, *The Mortification of Sin*, p69
- **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.**

(b) Its Promises

- **Corinthians 10: 12** Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. **13** No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. **14** Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.
- **Corinthians 7: 1** Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

(c) Its Instructions

1 *Thessalonians 4:3-8, Matthew 5:27-30, Colossians 3:5, Romans 8:12-13*

(d) Its Examples

- Joseph fleeing Potiphar’s wife in Genesis 39*
- Job’s covenant -**Job 31:1** "I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin?"*
- Paul’s Thorn in the Flesh/Weakness – 2 Corinthians 12*

(2) PUT TO DEATH YOUR SIN through honest, humble self-assessment.

“Addiction is a relative term. I would stake my life on the assumption that no one in this room is absolutely addicted to pornography or any sexual sin. What I mean is this: If the stakes are high enough and sure enough, you will have all the self-control you need to resist any sexual temptation.

For example, if tonight you are feeling totally in the sway of sexual desire — more blazing, more powerful than you have ever felt it in your life — and you believe that you cannot resist the temptation to look at some nudity online, and suddenly a black-hooded ISIS member drags your best friend or your spouse into the room with a knife at his or her throat, and says, “If you look at that website, I will slit their throat,” you will have the self-control you thought you didn’t have. You won’t click.

Or if a man walks into the room and says, “If you do not look at that nudity, I will give you one million dollars cash, tax-free, tonight,” you will suddenly have the self-control you thought you did not have. Addiction is a relative term. The fact is, 99% of those who give way to lust in pornography or fornication or adultery, are not decisively controlled by sexual desire. They are decisively controlled by what they believe — what they believe will happen if they act on their lust or don’t.”

- John Piper, “You Can Say No to Porn” (sermon)

One of the choicest and most important parts of spiritual wisdom is to find out the subtleties, policies, and depths of any indwelling sin; to consider where its greatest strength lies – how it uses occasions, opportunities, and temptations to gain an advantage. We need to find out its please, pretenses and reasonings, and see what its strategies, disguises and excuses are! We need to set the Spirit against the craft of the old man; to trace this serpent in all of its turning and windings, and to bring its most secret tricks out into the open. “

- John Owen, *The Mortification of Sin*, p37

(3) PUT TO DEATH YOUR SIN by ruthlessly and radically making no provision for the flesh.

Romans 13:12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. **13** Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. **14** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.**

- *Do not give your sin even an inch.*
- *Do not feed it. Do not coddle it. Do not consider it even an option.*

Rise mightily against the first sign of sin. Do not allow it to gain the smallest ground. Do not say ‘This far I shall go, and no farther.’ If you allow it one step, it will take another. It is impossible to fix boundaries for sin.

- **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.**
- **Hebrews 12: 3** Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. **4** In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

We must use every weapon available to conquer it!

- Software, Discipline, Accountability, Remove regular avenues of temptation,
- “But I need XXXXXX” – NO, what you need is to walk in holiness. Period.

The Importance of Self-Discipline

- **1 Corinthians 9: 23** I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. **24** Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. **25** Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. **26** So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. **27** But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

WEEDS // Rip off the top vs. Rip it out at its root

(4) PUT TO DEATH YOUR SIN through confession and transparency.

a. CONFESSION TO GOD:

- i. **Psalm 51:4** Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.
- ii. **1 John 1:5** This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. **6** If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. **7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. **8** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

b. CONFESSION TO ONE ANOTHER:

- i. **James 5: 16** Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. **17** Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. **18** Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit. **19** My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, **20** let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.
- ii. **Hebrews 4: 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.

(5) PUT TO DEATH YOUR SIN through serving and responsibility.

Reality: Indulging in pornography can disqualify you from being able to serve the Lord and the Church in some ways ... However, the more you focus on yourself and leech off the church – the more and more you'll sinfully focus on yourself instead of others.

2 Peter 1: 3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, **4** by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. **5** For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, **6** and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, **7** and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. **8** For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. **10** Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

See also 2 Timothy 2:20-22

(6) PUT TO DEATH YOUR SIN through relying on the Holy Spirit.

- Galatians 5: **16** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. **17** For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. **18** But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. **19** Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, **20** idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, **21** envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. **24** And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25** If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. **26** Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

(7) PUT TO DEATH YOUR SIN by looking to Christ.

What fills your mind? What do you set your mind upon?

- Philippians 4: 8** Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. **9** What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me--practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.
- 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.

*****2 Corinthians 10:3** For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. **4** For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. **5** We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, **6** being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

- Titus 2: 11** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, **12** training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, **13** waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, **14** who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.
- 1 Peter 1: 13** Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **14** As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, **15** but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, **16** since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." **17** And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, **18** knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

“However much I tried it, the will power of ‘just don’t look at it’ never worked. I could go for a few days, and then the hole left just had to be filled. But then God made me realise that my choice was not simply between sinning or not. It was between desiring Jesus, who would satisfy, or desiring something else which wouldn’t. The struggle didn’t become easy then, but it did become winnable, because I realized I had to choose, not to walk away from something, but towards someone.”

- Julian Hardyman, *Idols: God’s Battle for our Hearts*, p 58-59

“You need to be the kind of person who fights for a close relationship with Jesus more than you fight against pornography ... When you find yourself working to look to Christ more than you find yourself working to avoid porn, you’ll know you’ve turned the corner ... A living, breathing relationship with Jesus 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.”

- Heath Lambert, *Finally Free*. p144

(8) PUT TO DEATH YOUR SIN by fighting every-single-day.

- **1 Peter 4:12** “Beloved, don’t be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you, to test you, as though a strange thing happened to you.”
- **1 Corinthians 6: 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.
- **1 Timothy 4: 6** If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. **7** Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. **Rather train yourself for godliness;** **8** for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. **9** The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. **10** For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.