

PORNOGRAPHY



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 5:27-30

FACTS ABOUT MEN – 2014:

- 97% of **Christian men** have looked at porn.
- 78% of **Christian men** viewed porn before 16.
- 65% of **Christian men** viewed porn in last 90 days.
- 55% of **Christian men** (married) view porn 1/month.
- 37% of **Christian men** look at porn several times a week.
- 35% of **Christian men** have sex with someone else while married.

2014 Barna commissioned survey by ProvenMen.

A Native American elder once described his inner struggles in this manner:

"Inside of me there are two dogs. One of the dogs is mean and evil, the other dog is good. The mean dog fights the good dog all the time." When asked which dog wins, he reflected for a moment and replied, "The one I feed the most,"

George Bernard Shaw

DEFEATING SEXUAL SIN (DSS):

ONE, DSS IS NOT ABOUT TRYING HARDER. You are a human being with sexual desires. These desires simply don't just go away, God wants you to have them! After all he invented sex. "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God." 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5.

TWO, DSS INVOLVES SEEING THE DEEPER ISSUES. Addiction to pornography, sex outside of marriage, masturbation, and other issues are a deep pride issue. It is an unwillingness to let God lead in some private area of life and to rely upon your own desires to fulfill a need for companionship filled through fantasy. It is part of our responsibility to uncover this issue even if we are not currently conscious of how this connects to our behavior.

THREE, DSS BEGINS WITH REDEEMING THE DEEPER ISSUE. The deepest issue for all of humanity is real companionship. This is only found in Christ. This means redeeming our relationship at a level we may not have open to God at the present. "And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." Galatians 5:24

FOUR, DSS MEANS FOSTERING NEW DESIRES. You have to learn to love others enough that you do not view them as objects – whether fantasy or reality. Loving them means loving them the way God wants them to be loved.

FIVE, DSS INVOLVES BATTLING WITH YOU. The Christian life for the disciple involves struggle and this is non-negotiable and a battle with yourself is the most difficult of any battle. It is a struggle of the flesh against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh. "Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body." 1 Corinthians 6:18.

SIX, DSS IS SUSTAINED BY BROTHERHOOD. We must rely on one another.

TWO OTHER KEY WORDS

ADULTERY: Voluntary sexual intercourse between one man and one woman whereby the offender (the Adulterer) is currently married.

FORNICATION: Voluntary sexual intercourse between one man and one woman whereby the offender (the Fornicator) is currently not married. In the Old Testament this was used as both a literal concept (sex) and figuratively (interaction between God's people and foreign gods). God used fornication and adultery synonymously with the concept of "spiritual idolatry" which means hold in higher regard another relationship over a relationship with God. In the the Greek word for fornication is "porneia" from which we get the word "porn."

MY ACTION ITEMS:

What issue with lust do I need to address? What steps do I need to take?

THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS WITH PORNOGRAPHY:

- Indifference to Godly pleasure.
- We become oversensitive to physical desire.
- It weakens self-control.
- It lowers sexual satisfaction.
- It disconnects us from relationship to fantasy.