

## Trends

How much porn is accessible online? Every day...

- ☛ 37 porn videos are created in the U.S.
- ☛ 2.5 billion porn-containing e-mails are sent.
- ☛ 68 million porn search queries; 25% of total searches.
- ☛ 116,000 queries related to child port are received.

- via Webroot

**Galatians 5:19, 21:** "Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness...and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

## Sentence Sermons

"Pornography, by its very nature, is an equal opportunity toxin. It damages the viewer, the performer, and the spouses and children of the viewers and the performers. It is toxic miseducation about sex and relationships. It is more toxic the more you consume."

—Dr. Mary Anne Layden

## News & Notes

**Pray for one another:** "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (Jas. 5:16)

Please consider donating funds to Zach & Taya Martin. Zach is a medical student and he and his wife Taya are planning to assist Ron Halbrook on one of his preaching trips to the Philippines. The Martins are worthy of our support. You can contact Zach at: zcmartin30@gmail.com.

Please pray for one another! "comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Please pray for Ryan & Jennifer and the brethren of the Northern Michigan church of Christ. They are now meeting in their newly purchased building in Roscommon, Michigan.

Please keep sisters Virginia Brown and Wilma Cardwell in your prayers. Their faithfulness sets a great example and gives encouragement to all! Ditto for Al (our Barnabas!).

Pray for all the lost souls, especially those in the greater Bloomington area. Pray that Westside might be an influence for good in this community.

Pray for the all of our students: elementary, secondary and college. Our young people face many trials and temptations at school.

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**Editor:** Craig Thomas (812-320-9569); [craigthomas82000@gmail.com](mailto:craigthomas82000@gmail.com)

Please direct questions and comments to the editor.

# Words of Life

Westside  
church of Christ

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

John 6:68



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## Why the Lord's Church Does Not Have Fellowship with Denominational Groups

R.C. Campbell

Denominationalism is one of the most detrimental and disastrous curses in the history of the human race.

When we see the word "fellowship" in the New Testament, in most cases it is from the Greek word *koinonia* - a word which means a sharing in, a joint participation [Thayer, word no. 2842]. God has set boundaries on the fellowship in which His children are allowed to engage. It is a light vs. darkness scenario.

Our Lord wants us to extend fellowship to those who walk in the light (1 John 1:7). He does not, however, want us to share in the sin of others (1 Tim. 5:22). He forbids us to have fellowship with "the unfruitful works of darkness." Instead, He wants us to expose/reprove such activities (Eph. 5:11).

Many people today speak of a "denomination" as being a part of the whole body of the Christ (like one piece is a part of the whole cake); that is, each Brand X or Brand Y denomination is part of the church, but no particular denomination is the whole body of Jesus. In truth, when one investigates the Bible, he never sees God's church described as a denomination. The Lord's church is not part of God's family. The New Testament church **IS** His family (1 Tim. 3:15).

At the same time, the church of the New Testament is not made up of many different denominations. The modern concept of denominationalism is not found in the Bible. The proposal that men can divide into different groups which have different names, teach different doctrines, and have different worship practices, is foreign to the Scriptures. Such an idea is a mockery of the Lord God -Who is not the source of confusion (1 Cor. 14:33). Denominationalism also is contrary to Jesus' prayer for the unity of those who believe in Him (John 17:20-23).

Denominations are man made. They exist by the authority of humans. They have zero "thus saith the Lord" to defend their existence. What did Jesus say about activities in the spiritual realm which are not from His Father? "Every plant which my heavenly father hath not planted, shall be rooted up" (Matt. 15:13). Denominations may appear to flourish in this life, but they face a fearful eternal judgment from the eternal God!

Denominations are a stumbling block to people who long to receive salvation from the Lord. With their “Sinner’s Prayer” propaganda, disregard for God’s arrangement for the organization of the church, unauthorized additions to His prescribed worship activities, the fantasy about babies being born as depraved sinners, their ridiculous claims of the Holy Spirit giving them direct revelation, and many other non-biblical teachings and practices, denominationalism is one of the most detrimental and disastrous curses in the history of the human race. We love every human, regardless of their religious affiliation, but we hate every false way (Psa. 119:104,128), and that is exactly what denominationalism is - FALSE.

Along come some well-intended brethren who are convinced that we need to reach out to denominations and work with them. Why? Because, to these brethren’s way of thinking, the denominations are “doing a lot of good and we could learn from them.” It is evil, not good, to bring a message that does not harmonize with the doctrine of the Christ (2 John 9-11). It is evil, not good, to teach false messages which turn people from the truth (Titus 1:14). It is evil, not good, to be in competition with the Lord’s one body.

“Why do we have to be so arrogant? What makes us think that we have it right and everyone else is wrong?” It is not about “us” and “them.” It is about God’s truth! God’s truth declares that there is “one body” (Eph. 4:4). Jesus is the Head of that body (Col. 1:18). He is the Savior of that body (Eph. 5:23). And, His church, which began in a specific place (Jerusalem) at a specific time (the day of Pentecost, Acts 2) was purchased with His blood (Acts 20:28). No denomination can make such a lawful claim about its relationship with Jesus.

“Well, why do we have to be so mean spirited about it?” If, in fact, any members of the church have been unkind in dealing with others as they discuss spiritual matters, then they need to repent. Unkindness is wrong in any setting, and we refuse to endorse it regardless of who demonstrates it. Please do not miss this point, though. Is it rude to open the Bible and show a person that there is one God (Eph. 4:6)? Of course not. Is it mean spirited to open the Bible and show a person that Jesus is the one Mediator between God and man (1 Tim. 2:5)? Of course not. In the same way, neither is it out of line or ugly spirited to point out what the Bible says about false religious messages and practices.

God being our Helper and Witness, we will continue to love and reach out to people who have been hoodwinked by denominational teaching. We shall not, however, join hands with denominations to carry out joint worship, evangelistic, or benevolent activities - ever!

## **Pornography**

Craig Thomas

Pornography (porn) is “Sexually explicit pictures, writing, or other material whose primary purpose is to cause sexual arousal.” In times past porn was rare and found only on the “seamy” side of town. Today porn is everywhere! Twelve percent (4.2 million) of websites offer porn. (Statistics

from *TopTen Reviews, Inc.*) There are over 420 million porn pages on the internet and over 68 million search engine requests per day for porn (25% of total requests!). Every second over 28,000 people are viewing porn on-line. Every 39 minutes a new porn video is created in the U.S. Over 13,500 porn videos were released in 2005, a 138% increase since 1995! In the U.S. porn websites generate \$2.84 billion in annual revenue. Other pornographic material (e.g., movie rentals, magazines, phone sex, etc.) increase the size of this “industry” to over \$13 billion in the U.S. and over \$97 billion worldwide. Worldwide porn revenue exceeds the combined revenues of Microsoft, Google, Amazon, eBay, Yahoo!, Apple, Netflix, and EarthLink! U.S. porn revenue is larger than the combined revenues of all professional sports (football, baseball, basketball) and nearly double the combined revenues of the major television networks (ABC, NBC, and CBS). Porn is not going away!

1) **But, it’s not a problem at my house.** Perhaps, but it is a major problem in American society and you and your family are in much more danger than you may know! Did you know: 80% of 15-17 year olds have “multiple hardcore exposures”? 90% of 8-16 year olds have viewed porn on-line (most while doing homework!)? 40 million American adults regularly visit porn websites? 20% of men admit to accessing porn at work? 10% of Americans admit to an internet sexual addiction? 17% of all women struggle with a porn addiction? 9.4 million women access adult websites each month and 13% of them admit to doing so at their workplace? Sadly, 47% of “Christians” say porn is a problem in their home. Do you know what your children are viewing on the internet? Your husband? Your wife? You and your household may not have a problem, but “let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Cor. 10:12).

2) **Porn is more addictive than “crack cocaine”!** That’s what experts said who testified before the U.S. Senate (*wirednews.com*). One expert said “Pornography addicts have a more difficult time recovering from their addiction than cocaine addicts, since coke users can get the drug out of their system, but pornographic images stay in the brain forever.” Other testimony revealed the sexual arousal caused by porn is more powerful than addictive drugs since it causes the release of “naturally occurring opioids” and “does what heroin can’t do.” Another said porn addiction can lead to “compulsive and destructive behaviors centered on pornography” more powerful than gambling or shopping addictions. One senator called the hearing “the most disturbing one I’ve ever seen.”

Pornography is poisoning minds and ruining lives throughout our nation. Christians must “flee fornication”! (1 Cor. 6:18). Interestingly, the word “fornication” is from the Greek word “porneia” which is the root of our English word “pornography.” That fact alone should be warning enough for the followers of Christ: porn has one purpose...to lead us to commit fornication, whether it be the overt act or through self gratification. In the process relationships will be damaged and broken, lives and homes will be shattered, and souls will be lost! Let us awaken to this insidious and ubiquitous danger and warn our brethren and children of its immense power and destructiveness!