

Trends

Every minute on Pornhub:

☛ 207,405 videos viewed	☛ 13,962 user profiles viewed
☛ 10,498 hours video viewed	☛ 528 videos added to playlists
☛ 63,992 visitors	☛ 593 users followed
☛ 7708 GB data transferred	☛ 167 friend requests
☛ 57,750 searches	☛ 271 videos rated

—Forbes (online)

★ **Matthew 5:28-30:** "... whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell."

Sentence Sermons

★ "...you either kill your addiction or your addiction will eventually kill you."
—Oche Otokpa, *The Night Before I Killed Addiction*

★ **Job 31:1:** "I have made a covenant with my eyes; Why then should I look upon a young woman?"

News & Notes

● Pray that the excellent preaching we experienced at our recent gospel meeting continues to influence all of us for good! We extend our sincerest thanks to Stacy Crim for his excellent preaching!

● Please pray for Zachary Wallace. He is not faithfully attending services as he should (Heb. 10:24-25). "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (Jas. 5:16)

● Please keep sister Wilma Cardwell in your prayers. She is recovering from a recent illness.

● Pray for all our members who do not attend regularly. Try to encourage them!

● 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.

● There are many needy saints, including preachers! Can you help?! Let me know.

● Please let us know of any in need of our prayers! We'll announce it and post it.

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

John 6:68



Pornography

Craig Thomas

Editor's note: This article originally appeared in the *Sanilac County (MI) News*; July 10, 2005).

Pornography is "Sexually explicit pictures, writing, or other material whose primary purpose is to cause sexual arousal." (Dictionary.com) In times past pornography was something one could only find on the "seamy" side of town. However, today "porn" is everywhere! Did you know that 12% (4.2 million) of websites offer pornographic material? (Statistics from TopTen Reviews, Inc.) There are over 372 million porn pages on the internet and over 68 million search engine requests per day for porn material (25% of total requests!). Porn is "big business"! Porn websites generate \$2.5 billion in annual revenue. Other pornographic material (e.g., movie rentals, magazines, phone sex, etc.) increase the size of this "industry" to over \$12 billion in the U.S. and over \$57 billion worldwide. The *New York Times* reported (2001) Hollywood released 400 "normal" movies (BTW: many of these are filled with "soft core" porn), but over 11,000 porn videos. Porn revenue in the U.S. is larger than the combined revenue 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 to go away!

1) **But, it's not a problem at my house.** Perhaps, but it is undoubtedly a major problem in American society and you and your family are in much more danger than you may know! Did you know that the largest consumers of internet pornography are in the 12-17 year old age group? That 90% of 8-16 year olds have viewed pornography on-line (most while doing homework)? That 40 million American adults regularly visit pornographic websites? That 47% of "Christians" say pornography is a problem in their home? That 20% of men admit to accessing pornography at work and that 10% of Americans admit to an internet sexual addiction? That 17% of all women struggle with a pornography addiction? That 9.4 million women access adult websites each month and 13% of them admit to accessing these sites at their workplace? 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 more addictive than “crack” cocaine.** That’s what experts said when they testified before the U.S. Senate’s Commerce Committee (wirednews.com). One expert testified that “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.” Further testimony revealed that the sexual arousal caused by porn is much more powerful than addictive drugs since it causes the release of “naturally occurring opioids” and in essence “does what heroin can’t do.” Further expert testimony said porn addiction can lead to “compulsive and destructive behaviors centered on pornography” more powerful than those caused by addictions to gambling or shopping. It’s no wonder one senator called the hearing “the most disturbing one I’ve ever seen in the Senate.” Porn is not harmless!

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 actual 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!

Editor’s note: I have an updated (4/7/2019) sermon on this important topic. Send me an e-mail (craigthomas82000@gmail.com) to request a copy.

Pornography Addiction Widespread

Larry Ray Hafley

Did you see this in the paper recently (Associated Press, 2/13/04)? A company has been set “that aims to help Christians confront the ‘secret sin’ of pornography.

“NetAccountability co-founders Brandon Cotter and Scott Covington say their target audience isn’t those who see nothing wrong with perusing X-rater Web sites. Rather, it’s Christians caught up in a behavior their faith views as immoral....

“If national surveys are any indication, it’s a personal battle waged by millions of Christians. Almost 18 percent of people who call themselves born again Christians admitted visiting Internet porn sites, according to a 2000 survey of 1,031 adults by the evangelical group, *Focus on the Family*. In a 2002 Pastors.com survey, more than 50 percent of responding pastors reported viewing pornography in the previous year.”

The Catholic church is not the only denomination that has problems with sexual sin. Protestants and others have the same challenges. The Lord’s people are not immune, either. Over and over again we hear of the devastating effects of pornography in the lives of Christians. Marriages and families have been torn and ripped asunder by the devious depravity and sinister sin of pornography.

Like drunkenness and alcoholism, it is easier to prevent than it is to cure. Of course, repentance and forgiveness are available through the grace of God and the blood of Christ, but one must “go and sin no more” if he is to be saved. Again, as with addiction to alcohol, enslavement to pornography, especially Internet porn, is difficult to break and beat.

Parents, watch your own selves! Then, keep a watch out for the souls of your children. As you would not allow them to be around a molester or sexual predator, so you must not allow them to have unrestrained, undisciplined use of a computer. It can be an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

Be alert to the danger signs of a computer, pornography addict. Extraordinary use of a computer at odd hours of the day and night, changes in behavior, nervousness, lack of personal hygiene, not taking time to eat regular meals, plus, furtive, closed door, use of a computer, and a noticeable startling or discomfort of one who is angered when his computer privacy is violated—these are all danger signs.

“Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word” (Psa. 119:37). *“I have made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman”* (Job 31:1)? *“Can a man take fire to his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one walk on hot coals, and his feet not be seared? So is he who goes in to his neighbor’s wife; whoever touches her shall not be innocent.”* (Proverbs 6:27-29). *“But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”* (Matt.5:28).

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet. 5:8).

“The porn that is being produced and sold to us is full of ideas and beliefs that are completely distorted, and that are in fact, opposite of what real sex, love, and relationships are like. Loving-healthy relationships are built on respect, equality, honesty. But in porn, this is quite the contrary, there, love and sex are based on domination, control, disrespect, and violence. Sweet, affectionate, caring interaction doesn’t sell, but degradation and abuse do. And there’s something deeply disturbing and concerning about an industry who profits from that.”

— **Orge Castellano**