

Helping Christian Parents in a Porn World

There are two worlds that we live in today. One is the biological world, and the other is the virtual world that is experienced on-line through computers, phones, gaming counsels, or tablets. Because the virtual world carries with it, real implications, we must pay attention to what's available on it. This is about adult material that is in that world.



The statistics on pornography use are well documented online. A quick search for pornography statistics will bring up many sites for you to read over. I will not include statistics in this article. But what is clear is that our country allows free pornography, of any kind, to any aged person, which in turn creates a potential health risk issue, and a new dynamic for parents or those that educate and oversee young people. Now more than ever it is important to engage your young person on issues of sex and pornography. I hope this short writing will help you fix your mind on what you will need to learn and share.

Every kid is at a different place in their development. So be prayerful and discerning as to what to share and when to share it. May the Lord give you grace in these times we live in.

Understanding What Your Kid are Potentially Watching

This might be a shock to you, but kids do stumble across pornography. For many of us Internet savvy parents, we already are familiar with the pornography available on the web, but for some this is new. From what I have gathered, many kids stumble onto sex on the Internet accidentally. So if you see that your kid went to a site that was adult related, don't think that he found it on his/her own. They probably didn't. They more than likely clicked a link that took them to the site. But whatever got them to

the site, what is important is that you understand that the pornography available is hard core pornography. So when your kid sees pornography today, it is different, usually, than what we might have seen growing up (Playboy). Today you might need to explain to your 11 year old why a person was doing this or that to his private area. Or it can be even more crazy than that! This can be quite awkward.

Understanding Porn Sites

Porn sites today are free! That's right. The law is that those under the age of 18yrs are not allowed to access it, but on many adult sites there are no restrictions to view. This is not only true on websites but also on other mediums like the ROKU, Google Tv, Apple tv, etc... any device that hooks up to your TV. You need to be aware of the child safety features of every device, as they all come with some sort of child safety tool. Porn sites are kind of like the famous YOUTUBE site. There are many video's that can be watched on a single click. Sites offer short video's to full length adult movies at no cost to viewers! Traditional porn sites were pictures only, but most sites today offer mostly video's. Think of Netflix, now think of an adult Netflix! The reason they are free is there is the hope that people will visit the company's paid websites for better quality pornography at a fee. The business model works, as millions upon millions of people visit the free sites monthly and some of those end up visiting the paid sites. Porn is big business. Supply & demand.

Understanding Types of Porn

Pornography today comes in plethora of kinds! There is science fiction pornography, cartoon pornography, anime pornography (aka hentai), dinosaur pornography too! Really, I'm not joking. And all of this is hardcore material, meaning it shows hardcore sex. The typical pornography site that carries the videos that I have mentioned above are like a food buffet. All the videos are arranged according to its genre. Like Netflix where you can find a

movie by searching through a genre of kinds, so it is with pornography sites. The genres are categorized by kinds of sexual content. Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual, Group Sex, Straight Sex to name general kinds. But it gets more deviant as the categories describe sex acts too. So you can select one that says anal sex or oral sex. Now what is important to grasp is that the categories are what you first see upon visiting a site! It is easy to simply click a category and see thousands of videos for you to click on and watch. Your teen might be clicking on homosexual sex and find that they like it. I know this is very difficult to read, but it's our world, our virtual world, this is reality. Some kids first exposure to sex will be homosexual sex or group sex, so be knowledgeable and on alert.

Understanding a Secular World-view on Sex

In a secular world-view there is no absolute as to what is proper sex or sex education. There are moral atheists who are against today's pornography, and there is the antithesis as well. So you might have offspring that attend college where there is a wide range of ideas on sexuality which can influence them greatly. But it's not only college, any educational institution will have its view on sexuality. What I am hoping is that you as the parent engage your loved one in reason. Humanistic philosophy dominates our educational system. Humanism is a philosophical idea that mankind is in command of its own destiny. There are no gods nor a god.

Humanism carries with it the idea of Evolution (ape to man) as being a fact. Evolution is the 'proof' that the matter we are able to witness through the scientific method is all there is and ever was. It's this idea that is the foundation for such varying ideas on sexuality, but it's not the only idea. There are many religions in the world as well, and each one has their views on marriage and sexuality. In a virtual world we are all open to these various ideas daily. So it is vital to engage your loved one on questions of sex

and sexuality to see where they are getting their thoughts from. I used to get my ideas of sex from the entertainment culture and educational system of my day, maybe you too. Don't be afraid to have a good conversation with your student about their views on sexuality. Understanding them is the first step to being able to challenge their ideas.

Communicating You Understand the Physiological Desire For Excitement and Need of Stress Relief

Understanding is needed to have compassion on others. Most of us can understand the difficulties when dealing with sexuality and its excitement. Try and associate with your kid by opening up your life to them. Mom and Dad have struggled with different things concerning sexuality in their lives too. Share where it led, what were the consequences if any, or how having a relationship with Jesus affected you when you went through the difficulty. It's also important to affirm to them that it is normal to desire sex as a human being. Our bodies are made to be sexual! A male's body builds up semen during puberty and will release some usually at night. It's called a nocturnal emission. It's even spoken about in the Bible (Duet 23:10). Masturbation (I will call it self-gratification) can be a way to calm a person down or to relieve stress. Kids do it too. Sometimes you will see a kid getting nervous and will grab his genitals. We need to understand that this is been a part of human actions for a long time. So talk to them. I always want to share in a way that is compassionate and instructive. Meaning, when I bring up the excitement that pornography can have to my teens, I can talk about how there are other ways to relieve stress than to self-gratify, as self-gratifying becomes quite a bad habit to break. But I relate to the feelings of excitement and the desire to relieve stress, do you? Some use food or a glass of wine to help relieve stress, and some methods are of course more dangerous than others, but share with your student a story, your life, let them know you understand. "The Lord is our refuge and fortress." Psalm 91:2

Communicating the Biblical World-view Opposed to our Default to Selfishness

We live to persuade men (2 Cor 5:11)! This is the goal of all of our discussions with our offspring isn't it? We cannot conform them to our view of things, they need to be transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit. No one can come to Christ unless he is brought by the work of the Father (John 6:65). So when approaching your teen, realize that your goal is to get them to understand what the Biblical world-view is on a subject. The Bible teaches us that we are sinners by birth (Psalm 51:5), and sinners by nature (Romans 5:12). What do sinners do? Sin! We are selfish people by default and rebellious from the ways of God (Romans 3:11). Lust is a work of the selfishness of mankind (James 4:2-3) which works in us. God tells us that we need a major surgical procedure to rid ourselves from this lust nature, and this is what Christ came to do! When a teen goes to porn, he is doing what is natural in his fleshly nature, just like a person who continually eats and eats when they should stop. Sharing with a teen of how your flesh is always working to get its way in you is a great way of relating to them and helping them see that in life you don't want to give in to everything that is available to us. Our default for what feels good is wrong according to the Bible. What feels good, might be oh so wrong and destructive. Share with them all the men and women of the Bible that struggled with their fleshly side! It helps them realize that God is gracious to those that struggle with giving into selfish inclinations. Jesus died for them and us! God is so compassionate!

Communicating the Biblical Idea That God Created Sex

Do you know why God created sex? If you don't as a parent, then it's impossible to share that with your offspring. I recommend that you read a little pamphlet we put out called God's Design for Sex In our [Quick Learning Center Page](#).

But for our time here, let me share a few things with you:

Sex is a work of God! He designed it and gave the command to Adam and Eve to do it! This is so important. If you do not communicate God's love for sex then we will confuse our kids for sure. Much of the time when we say porn is bad, what they hear is that sex is bad. That's unfortunate, but youth today are so familiar with porn that they see them as one and the same at times. God is the maker of sex and is still committed to saying that it was good that he made it! The greatest truth you can communicate to your students is that sex helps us understand the nature of God. Briefly stated; God is one of a unit, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Just as Adam and Eve are one, though they are two distinct and separate people. God is said to be one too (Duet 6:4). There is a unity within God or what is called the godhead (Colossians 2:9). This is how God can be outside of time, matter and space, also within it at all places, and also walking on the earth (You can see this in the first couple chapters of the Bible)! God is unique and a relationship between man and woman is to be as well! Sex is unique in that two people are one physically during sexual intercourse, which helps us understand God who is Spirit which we do not see! God's desire is for us to know him. And so sex was created for just that purpose. This is the great truth of the Bible. God is glorified in our sexual relationship according to His design! Any form of sexuality that deviates from the design cannot glorify Him, because it does not reflect the truth of God's nature. Only one man and one woman in a committed relationship, called marriage reflects this truth. Jesus believed in the Father's design for our sex lives (Matthew 19:4-6). Share that with your student. Jesus lived in a day of sexual revolution, and when Jesus had something to share about it, he went back to Genesis, to the beginning, Adam and Eve. One man, one woman in the agreement of marriage.

Communicating That Sex is to be Fun and Safe

When reading through the Song of Solomon you get the idea that the intimate life of the man and woman is fun. It is something

enjoyable. Share with our offspring that God intended sex to be fun and safe and that's why the covenant of marriage is to be so cherished. What happens if you have sex with everyone or anyone you want? Is it good to force someone to have sex with you?

Why is it wrong to do such a thing? Trying to help our students answer questions like this in their culture is important. Because in answering them they will see that moral relativism doesn't work when it comes to sex! Rape is always bad, whether in space or on the earth! There are absolute rights and wrongs when it comes to sex, but whom are we going to trust on what the right way is? We have God's Word, the Bible, or man's word. Do you think sex is seen as fun in the Christian Culture? That's a good question to ask a teenager!

When watching pornography a student would think to themselves, "hey, these people are having a great time," and that could be true, they might be. It's no good to tell them that all participants in filming pornography are not having fun. That's a lie and they will not buy that line of thinking for long. Many people who do not know Christ have sex, and they have a blast (Again, God created it to be that way). As Christians, we can say that sex is fun and feels good because the God who created it is a good and pleasurable God! The funness of sex is a reflection of his goodness! And we should be experiencing that in our life. Do parents show that their marriage is fun and a blessing to be in to their teens? God is amazingly complex in His pleasure (Psalm 16:11, Psalm 36:8), and it's no wonder that us humans have parts to our body that are intended for pleasure alone!

Communicating the Covenant of Marriage and Its Theological Meaning

So if sex is to be enjoyed, and it's a creation of God, then why can't we just have sex outside of marriage like they do in most pornography and it be fine? Once again we need to teach our kids theology! Without it, there is no meaning to why we do what we

do. God's Word tells us that marriage points us to something as well; to Christ and His Church (Ephesians 5:22-33)! This is an awesome truth. Just as sex points to the nature of God, marriage points to the relationship between the Son of God and His own bride, the Church! The Covenant is very special to God (Malachi 2:11). He created it, and designed it to help us understand the bond between Jesus and us. Jesus is so committed to us, that the Bible even says that even if we are faithless, he remains faithful (2 Tim 2:13). That is just how committed Jesus is to us when we have given our lives to Him! The covenant of marriage is to show the world how faithful Christ is with us. Of course, we do not uphold that perfectly, but in the beginning it was intended to be UN-breakable.

Communicating the Practical Way God's Design is Safe for Us (Disease, Pain, Hurt, Rape, etc...)

How is God's way better than any other way when it comes to sexual relationships? Through technology, this world is able to deal with disease and pregnancy more and more, which becomes a way for us to justify UN-godly sexual behavior. For instance. What would it be like if we didn't have the technology that we have? What if we did not have birth control like we do today, or the ability to enforce law in society like today? What would our world look like if we didn't have the scientific means to deal with AIDS or sexually transmitted disease? Technology has made what was not safe, relatively safe today. But couldn't we avoid so much of the 'what ifs,' if we trusted in the Lord's ways? Talk to your students about this! As a married man, I do not have the sexual risks of those that mess around with sex when not in a committed Christ covenant (i.e. marriage). Sex can be dangerous and even deadly.

1. Each year, one in four teens contracts an STD/STI.⁵
2. One in two sexually active persons will contract an STD/STI by age 25.⁶

3. About half of all new STDs/STIs in 2000 occurred among youth ages 15 to 24.7

<http://www.ashasexualhealth.org/stdsstis/statistics/>

Communicate That Just Because We Seek to Please God in Marriage Does Not Mean our Marriage Will Last.

There are no 'get out of jail free' cards in life. We all will go through crazy times and very hard times. Christian marriage is also not a sure way out of all pain and difficulty. Marriages fail for many, many reasons and as monogamous Christian marriage is between a man and a woman (Gen 2) those two people can walk away from God at any time. And if that were to happen then it could end the marriage. A great marriage is only as good as each person's walk with the Lord! What makes a great Christian marriage is the idea that we desire to glorify God in our lives and not live for selfishness. But if we do live for selfishness, then a divorce is not far away.

Tragic things happen to us and we need to trust the Lord through them. Kids today see the divorce in Christian homes and they assume that God is not 'working.' A kid can even think that maybe God has failed and why not view pornography! It's a good question that kids have. If we really believe that God's way for marriage is so right then why do we divorce? Teaching our students that our hearts do fail is important. But our failings never diminish the truth that God's ways are the best ways to experience lasting love and sexuality. God didn't fail, we do! Communicate that selfishness is the key to ruining a relationship.

Lastly:

There is a principle found in Romans 7 that is so important to remember and understand. If you set up a law or commandment, everything in your flesh will want to break it! I always ask a kid not to think of a pink elephant...and sure enough they can't not think of it! Ha ha

If you come to your kid or teen and say “don't view pornography, it will harm you”. You are not giving them the tools to reason through the why! This pamphlet is to help us communicate with them the why. If you just give them the don't do it, everything in their fleshly nature will fight against it. They will loose. Parenting today is hardcore! Your kids will not always do the right thing, but as you communicate with them, they will grow in their understanding of the why, and so be able to fight the good fight for their own sexuality and future marriage, to the glory of God.

On the following page are some tools to help with Internet safety.

Technology

I recommend you looking into a few companies that could help with Internet safety:

This company manufactures routers for your home with internet filter capabilities.

<https://cleanrouter.com/>

Internet safety filters for any device you have that connects to the Internet.

<http://www.covenanteyes.com/>

<http://www.internetsafety.com/>

<https://x3watch.com/?v=2.1>

<https://www.mymobilewatchdog.com/>

<https://www.opendns.com/>