

THE LIFE IN GRACE



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Re-Thinking Series

- God's Purpose & Design For Sex
- The Principles For Godly Sex In Marriage
- The Life In Grace
- Battling Continued Lust Thoughts
- Unplugging From the Matrix (For Students)
- Love & Lust
- A Fast From Intimacy
- Homosexuality (A Position Paper)



Porn and a Pastor

The Influence of Porn on a Gen Xer
by Beau-James Ouellette

Tate Publishing

"Born in the San Fernando Valley, author Beau James Ouellette was surrounded by porn and its effects. From friends to family members, his childhood was saturated with the ideas and lingo of porn culture. *Porn and a Pastor* is the fact-based assessment of the pornographic industry and its effects on individuals and our culture. *Porn and a Pastor* extends a loving hand to those in need, both to those involved and entrapped in the lifestyle of the industry and to those who are addicted to its product. With a heart for both the believer and the non-believer, Beau James Ouellette unequivocally expresses how Christ's love and sacrifice can overcome any obstacle, even the bondage of pornographic addiction. If knowledge is power, and if the truth will set us free, then Beau's book is precisely the tool that the church needs to be free of the porn industry's devastation. The church simply needs to come to the realization that salvation in Christ is more pleasurable than porn."

116 pages – (paperback)

This Pamphlet is designed to help people understand the work and power of the grace of God in a person's life that is in bondage to sexual immorality (i.e. pornography).

WHY WRITE ABOUT THIS?

The reason I write this short pamphlet is very personal. As a minister, I misunderstood the work of Grace for many years in my own life by total ignorance of its daily power to move me away from lust. I was partially correct in thinking of Grace as what we call "positional" grace or "judicial" grace, which is what so many of us think of when we hear the word, *Grace*. But there was this daily power of grace that is to be sought that I saw scripturally worked in the Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 15:10). It moved him towards a better pleasure in Christ that I was strongly lacking. The following is a list of what this grace looked like upon my own re-thinking of this gift that begins at conversion yet continues through, to a holy life. I hope you too will have a mind change of sorts and find that greater enjoyment of the grace of God! (2 Peter 3:18)

PROPER MOTIVATION

It all starts with this. If this is not right, then we will not go far in finding freedom! So many of us desire freedom for our kids or a spouse only to see failure over and over. May I suggest a better motivation for us: God's Glory! When reading the Bible you get the idea that God is most concerned about His Name. When God has indignation against the freed Hebrews from Egypt and tells Moses that it is time for their annihilation, Moses pleads with God so that His Name not be tarnished in the world. This is the best motivation, because there is nothing higher nor more worthy to be honored than God. Look though the following passages: Psalm 115:1, 1 Corinthians 10:31, 1 Peter 4:11 and Colossians 3:17. What do you see? Now pray for that kind of heart!

DRINKING FROM JESUS

Porn will not satisfy us. Viewing one video will lead to another, then another. I had one student in Europe talk about how as a Father he had his kids in one room and he in another constantly viewing porn and he could just never get enough of the images. There is a better way, it is really a better "one!" In the gospel of John we see a women who has the same problem as the man mentioned above. One man after another. Jesus says to her, "If you

only knew who I was, you would ask and I would give you Living Water!" Then Jesus goes on to tell her that when having this Living Water she would be overflowing with it! Sounds pretty good! We need simply to start drinking from this Jesus well instead of the wells that will not satisfy and have not yet! Ask the Lord to give you a heart for this Living Water. Look up Jeremiah 2:13, Psalm 36:8, and John 4.

CONFESSION

Walk in the Light, as God is Light. This experience of coming out of darkness is a wonderfully burden lifting action of Grace! Fungus thrives in the darkness and so does sin, especially the sin of viewing pornography. Let's face it adult stores have no windows. You must understand that pornography is a 97 billion dollar industry world wide! Many struggle with this sin, you are not alone. A move to confess your sin to a friend, spouse or counselor/pastor will be a great gain for you. Ask God to give you a heart to confess to His Glory. When our heart is for God's glory then we won't mind what our confession does in how others view us, but our concern will be correct now because it will be on God. Those that confess often are happiest. They desire more of God and are tired of putting on a pretense before people. Let's face it, it's kind of tiring being fake before people when we really have some things we need to get off our chest. Ask the Lord to give you this amazing and powerful work of His grace! Look up Joshua 7:19, Proverbs 28:13, 1 John 1:9, and James 5:16.

AMPUTATION

Cut it off! When a part of your body is so bad off that the doctors say they need to amputate, then you know that it is life or death! It's that serious. This is how it is with the grace of amputation. This is God's power in our life to look at an area of sin and see its destructive nature to us and others and throw it out! It looks like many things for the person amputating sexual immorality. It can be a giving up of credit cards, or canceling cable or satellite TV. For others, it's throwing out the computer or putting an Internet filter program like "Safe Eyes" on it so you can't get into area's of the World Wide Web. It can even look like not traveling in a certain direction or seeing a particular person anymore. But whatever this is in your life, amputation is our betterment to the Glory of God. Bottom line: Amputation shows that God is better to have than the idol that we are amputating! It is a choosing one over the other, the

infinite over the finite, the eternal over the corrupt. This is a move towards life. See Mark 9:43, Hebrews 12:1, and Ezekiel 20:7.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The power of Grace is seen in the body of Christ, the Church. It is there that we have brothers and sisters who love Christ and desire to help us grow in Him. God has built up the church in such a way as to give us strength in our fight against sinful desires. Accountability is it! Those that are seeking God's grace in this area will not shy away from finding leaders who understand the power of sin and also the more powerful ability of God to defeat it. Battling this sin is real and the biggest battle you might ever face in your life! God has supplied us with many on our team to help bring the enemy down! The more people know about what you are struggling with, the more they will be able to properly keep you accountable. This helps us not to continue in hypocrisy, but instead continuing in the light or honesty. Accountability is a move towards our betterment to the Glory of God. It might show our weakness, but we are happy that it also reveals our need for His strength! See Ecclesiastes 4:9, John 13:34, Ephesians 4:11-13, and Galatians 2:11.

REPENTANCE

We need to change and go in a different direction. This is what the word repentance is all about! How do we know that we are truly repentant of a behavior? Many spouses wonder if their marriage partner is repentant of his/her sin of sexual immorality, and for good reason! If you see a seeking of the graces mentioned in this pamphlet then you are seeing godly repentance. Like all of God's graces, they are gifts. Repentance is no different, it is to be sought out by those who find themselves unable to muster up the right kind of heart needed for such an endeavor. King David knew this and cried out for God to change his heart. And as with all the graces of God too, repentance is a continued work in our lives until we go to be with the Lord. A person who has a repentant heart will do whatever radical steps it takes to show others that there is a move towards God, though some of them (like the ones I've mentioned) might seem over the top! There is a seriousness with repentance. No longer can we joke about things that have caused our destruction. Now we are sorrowful about them. And above all, our sorrow is because we have distorted God to our loved ones. This seriousness and sorrow show themselves when the grace of repentance is in someone's life.

CONCLUSION

God's work in us is for a lifetime! There will never be a time when we will not sin, but there can be a time when we are no longer in continual bondage to a particular sin, like participating in pornography. I strongly believe that if the Son makes you free, you are free indeed! I have seen the work of Christ in my own life, moving through me in these graces for my betterment and His glory! We can seek this work of the Spirit daily in our lives through an honest assessment of our sins and then asking Him for the grace to move us in these Christ glorifying ways. From the beginning of salvation to the end, it is a work of Him. I pray you seek Him for it. These are the ways out of sexual sin.

He opens His arms and satisfies!

"You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing." - Psalm 145:16

A.N.T.H.E.M.

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- A** – AVOID as much as is possible and reasonable the sights and situations that arouse unfitting desire. I say “possible and reasonable” because some exposure to temptation is inevitable. And I say “unfitting desire” because not all desires for sex, food, and family are bad. We know when they are unfitting and unhelpful and on their way to becoming enslaving. We know our weaknesses and what triggers them. “Avoiding” is a Biblical strategy. *“Flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness”* (2 Timothy 2:22). *“Make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires”* (Romans 13:14).
- N** – Say NO to every lustful thought within five seconds. And say it with the authority of Jesus Christ. “In the name of Jesus, NO!” You don’t have much more than five seconds. Give it more unopposed time than that, and it will lodge itself with such force as to be almost immovable. Say it out loud if you dare. Be tough and warlike. As John Owen said, “Be killing sin or it will be killing you.” Strike fast and strike hard. *“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you”* (James 4:7).
- T** – TURN the mind forcefully toward Christ as a superior satisfaction. Saying “no” will not suffice. You must move from defense to offense. Fight fire with fire. Attack the promises of sin with the promises of Christ. The Bible calls lusts *“deceitful desires”* (Ephesians 4:22). They lie. They promise more than they can deliver. The Bible calls them *“passions of your former ignorance”* (1 Peter 1:14). Only fools yield. *“All at once he follows her, as an ox goes to the slaughter”* (Proverbs 7:22). Deceit is defeated by truth. Ignorance is defeated by knowledge. It must be glorious truth and beautiful knowledge. This is why I wrote Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ. We must stock our minds with the superior promises and pleasures of Jesus. Then we must turn to them immediately after saying, “NO!”
- H** – HOLD the promise and the pleasure of Christ firmly in your mind until it pushes the other images out. *“Fix your eyes on Jesus”* (Hebrews 3:1). Here is where many fail. They give in too soon. They say, “I tried to push it out, and it didn’t work.” I ask, “How long did you try?” How hard did you exert your mind? The mind is a muscle. You can flex it with vehemence. Take the kingdom violently (Matthew 11:12). Be brutal. Hold the promise of Christ before your eyes. Hold it. Hold it! Don’t let it go! Keep holding it! How long? As long as it takes. Fight! For Christ’s sake, fight till you win! If an electric garage door were about to crush your child you would hold it up with all our might and holler for help, and hold it and hold it and hold it and hold it.
- E** – ENJOY a superior satisfaction. Cultivate the capacities for pleasure in Christ. One reason lust reigns in so many is that Christ has so little appeal. We default to deceit because we have little delight in Christ. Don’t say, “That’s just not me.” What steps have you taken to awaken affection for Jesus? Have you fought for joy? Don’t be fatalistic. You were created to treasure Christ with all your heart – more than you treasure sex or sugar. If you have little taste for Jesus, competing pleasures will triumph. Plead with God for the satisfaction you don’t have: “Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days” (Psalm 90:14). Then look, look, look at the most magnificent Person in the universe until you see him the way he is.
- M** – MOVE into a useful activity away from idleness and other vulnerable behaviors. Lust grows fast in the garden of leisure. Find a good work to do, and do it with all your might. *“Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord”* (Romans 12:11). *“Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord”* (1 Corinthians 15:58). Abound in work. Get up and do something. Sweep a room. Hammer a nail. Write a letter. Fix a faucet. And do it for Jesus’ sake. You were made to manage and create. Christ died to make you “zealous for good deeds” (Titus 2:14). Displace deceitful lusts with a passion for good deeds.

