

## Pornography - The Secret War

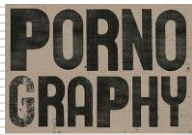
Pr Les Ackie

## The Enemy's Strategy

For all that *is* in the world, the **lust of the flesh**, and the **lust of the eyes**, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

1 John 2:16

## A Definition



Any sexually explicit image or writing designed to arouse sexual desire

## The Problem



Pornography is a multi-billion pound industry in which users cross ethnic, age, gender and religious barriers

## Problems with Pornography



What's the problem with pornography?

## 1. Pornography violates the divine purpose for sexual experience



Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Genesis 2:24

## 1. Distorts The Divine Purpose of Sexual Experience

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Now the body *is* not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

1 Corinthians 6:13

Masturbation is a violation of the sacredness of the body

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## 2. Pornography feeds on lust and fantasy

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But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matthew 5:28

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## 2. Pornography feeds on lust and fantasy

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The first work of those who would reform is to purify the imagination.

Mind Character & Personality, vol.2, 595

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## 3. The use of pornography is habit-forming

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Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?

Romans 6:16

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You sow a thought . . .

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## 3. The use of pornography is habit-forming

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A blue rectangular box with white text that reads "THE LAW OF DIMINISHING RETURNS".

“The ever increasing desire for ever decreasing pleasure”

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## 3. The use of pornography is habit-forming

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A persistent and escalating pattern of compulsive behaviour practiced in spite of increasing negative consequences to self and others

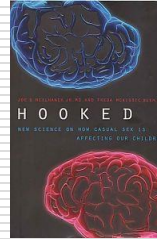
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### The Price to Pay

- 97% lower self esteem
- 96% significant guilt & shame
- 94% isolation & loneliness
- 91% hopelessness & despair
- 90% violated core beliefs
- 88% felt like two people
- 82% living in fear
- 68% loss of life goals

(Patrick Carnes - Don't Call It Love, 93)

### 3. The use of pornography is habit-forming



Sexual experiences stimulate the production of the brain chemical dopamine which plays a role in the addictive nature of sex

### 3. The use of pornography is habit-forming

Addictions often arise out of attempts to anaesthetise emotional pain

- approval
- food
- sex
- video games
- drugs and alcohol
- gambling
- Bible study

### 4. Supports an industry built on exploitation and abuse



If there were no users, there would be no industry

### 5. Deadens sensibility to spiritual things



Pornography conditions the mind to an attitude of self-gratification

### What to do?

“That each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honourable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God”

1 Thess. 4:4, 5, NIV

## What to do?

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It is difficult to overcome addiction by yourself

## What to do?

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1. Confess it to God
  2. Develop self-awareness
  3. Research self-help resources
  4. Admit your struggle to someone you trust and make yourself accountable
  5. Remove the stimuli from your life
  6. Consider getting professional help if necessary
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## There is Hope!

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Who is a God like  
You, pardoning  
iniquity and passing  
over the  
transgression of the  
remnant of His  
heritage  
Micah 7:18

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