

Porn

We received this email recently, "I would like you to talk about issues in today's society that have a dramatic impact on marriages such as porn sites. I have two friends, my sister, and myself that have all experienced this with our husbands. How do we deal with this? It is very hurtful. Thank you. Stacey"

First of all, Stacey, this is not your fault. Many times women feel like if they would have done this or that, their husband would not have the need for porn. In my following explanation of what may be going on in your husband it may sound to you like I am blaming you but I am not. Everyone bears his or her own responsibility for their sin. We have choices that we make with the needs that we have. There are righteous solutions and sin solutions. You do not blame yourself for what is happening.

Men are the victims of pornography more often than women because men are highly visual creatures. Men are also highly sexual creatures and are that way by God's design. Sexual fulfillment is a primary need for men. Affection and emotional support are the primary needs for women. This is why Satan has chosen porn as his major tool in destroying intimacy between a husband and wife.

If a man feels that he is missing something sexually, he is given pornography as an option and generally speaking, he may not see any harm in it. But we know that pornography is degenerative which means that it takes more and more to satisfy the need that is being filled. The problem also complicates itself in that the more you see something, the more "normal" it becomes. And then multiple sex partners and bizarre sexual behavior becomes something that they want to experience.

To a wife the issue is quite different. To her it is like her husband is having an affair and she feels violated and may wonder why her husband is not satisfied with her. Why does he need pictures of other women having sex with strange men? Why am I not enough for him? And to make matters worse, his mistress is not someone you can confront. If he is having an affair with some other woman you could rip her eyes out. You can compete for his love and affection but how do you compete with some image on a screen that has no emotional attachment to him? Here is an image doing casually the most intimate of things that you believed were reserved only for the most intimate times between the two of you.

If you are a Christian, the problem is clearer. Jesus said that even to look on another woman and lust after her was the same in the eyes of God as actually having sex with her. (Matthew 5.27-28)

Perhaps there is no single issue in God's Word that is more important to God than sexual purity. Our sexual purity is in direct correlation to the purity by which we relate to Him. Pornography will drag you down and eventually will separate you from God. Make no mistake about it, pornography is emotional adultery!

That said, let me be quick to say that because of the addictive nature of pornography, it may not just be enough to say "no". Being free may begin with saying "no" but the actual working out of the addiction may take some work and determination in both your personal life and in your married life. It may take the help of a counselor and finding someone to be accountable to but pornography can be conquered.

Take heart Stacey. Marriage is the perfect forum for the support needed in any addiction. I like what the Apostle says in I Corinthians 7.1 ff, "Now, getting down to the questions you asked in your letter to me. First, it is a good thing to have sexual relations? Certainly – but only within a certain context. It's good for a man to have a wife, and for a woman to have a husband. Sexual drives are strong, but marriage is strong enough to contain them; and provide for a balanced and fulfilling sexual life in a world of sexual disorder. The marriage bed must be a place of mutuality – the husband seeking to satisfy his wife, the wife seeking to satisfy her husband. Marriage is not a place to "stand up for your rights." Marriage is a decision to serve the other, whether in bed or out." The Message

Pastor Ron and Dr. Judith Habig offer free confidential online counseling to any pastor, pastor's wife, or church leader on their website www.marriagePlusMinistries.com.