

Proverbs 7:18 — “Christian! You Must Fight Hard for Sexual Purity!”

Introduction:

The Epidemic & Destructive Plague of Pornography:

- At age 11, the average child has already been exposed to porn.
- 93% of boys and 62% of girls are exposed to porn before 18.
- 96% of young adults are either encouraging, accepting, or neutral in their view toward pornography.
- 62% of teens and young adults have received a sexually explicit image [sexting]
- 80% of porn users feel no sense of guilt when using porn. Significance: We know that any sin, when repeated over time, begins to deaden the conscience.
- 36% of young adults watch pornography to get tips or ideas that they can apply to their own sexual relationships. Tragically -- Young people are learning about sex through pornography and then, inevitably, attempting to perform what they have seen on their sexual partners. Yet pornography teaches everything but the reality of sex as God intends it. They are learning from the very worst of teachers! Porn & all fornication is of the EVIL ONE.
- So by college: BY COLLEGE 87% of men view porn regularly & 31% of women view porn regularly.
- The magnitude? Senior writer for the NYTimes magazine, Frank Rich, says: the \$4 billion that Americans spend on video pornography is larger than the annual revenue accrued by either the N.F.L., the N.B.A. or Major League Baseball. (globally: it may be well over 50 billion)

You worship your way into porn & you must worship your way out of it (DA Carson).

A biblical understanding of sex & sexuality:

- The **Design** - (Gen 1-2)
- The **Problem** - The *heart*

Sexual "looking", whether we are looking at a real person, a digital one, or an imaginary one, is about greed. ... What I "see" is what I want to possess. Porn is not about our vision. It is about our hearts. It's like I am saying, "I WANT THAT AS MY OWN", which is exactly what the picture promises. The person in the photograph wants to belong to you and you alone. Sexual "looking", whether we are looking at a real person, a digital one, or an imaginary one, is about greed. I want to accumulate for my own kingdom! (Ed Welch)

- The **Danger** - Prov 5, 6, 7 (Gal 5.18ff & 1 Cor 6.9 & Eph 5.2)

THESIS — 6 KEY STRATEGIES FOR PERSEVERING THROUGH & WINNING THE *WAR* FOR SEXUAL PURITY...

1. **FIGHT** for purity (FIGHT!)
2. **FLEE** from temptation (RUN!)
3. **FOCUS** on Christ (PURSUE!)
4. **FEAR** God's Displeasure (FEAR!)
5. **FIXATE** on Heaven (FOCUS)
6. **FILL** your mind with Truth (MEDITATE)

I. FIGHT FOR PURITY!**II. FLEE FROM TEMPTATION!****III. FOCUS ON CHRIST!**

“The most important thing you can do in your pursuit of purity is to get to know the living God. Paul says that the difference between those who are controlled by sexual sin, and those who know how to control their own body in holiness and honor is the difference between those who know God and those who do not. The people who live in the passion of lust are the people who do not know God. The people who are growing in purity are the people who do know him.” (Heath Lambert)

IV. FEAR GOD’S DISPLEASURE!**V. FIXATE ON HEAVEN!****VI. FILL YOUR MIND WITH TRUTH!**

The TRUTH of God is always far superior than the TREACHERY of immorality.

The TRUTH of God is always more joyful & satisfying than the lies & guilt of porn & fornication!

Proverbs 7:18 — “Christian! You Must Fight Hard for Sexual Purity!”**What if you have sinned?****WHAT’S THE WAY BACK TO PURITY?**

1. **Repent** of all known sin (Ps 51:1; 2 Cor 7:10-11; Prov 28:13 & Prov 26:11)
2. **Receive** Forgiveness (Ps 32:1; 1 John 1:9; Isa 44.2; *Luke 7.47; 1 John 2.12)
3. **Refocus** & Replace (Eph 4.22-24)
4. **Request** Help Daily (Eph 6:18-20)

Some heart probing questions

Some helpful questions to diagnose your heart condition, to protect you from sin’s temptation & from Satan’s cunning schemes & methods....

- Do I love Christ passionately? Do I really meet with God in prayer daily? Do I spend too much time online simply 'browsing' blogs/sites? *Does your iPhone or social media *control* you? Do you spend excessive time online?*
- Do I enjoy marital intimacy frequently with my beautiful bride? Do I have any relationships, occasions, or appointments where I may be alone with a person NOT your spouse?
- Do I have anything in my heart/life/mind/ministry that I'm unwilling to disclose to my wife? Do I welcome other godly men specifically asking me about my own sexual purity? *Do you? When was the last time you confessed? Talked about this?*
- Do I hate it when I do sin sexually & do I repent of it seeking to mortify that hellish dragon? Do I earnestly pursue & diligently pray for aggressive holiness? *O God -- make me holy! (2 Cor 7.1)!*
- Do I rehearse in my mind the devastating effects that falling sexually would have on my marriage, family, and ministry?

Conclusion:

In our battle, we must get to Genesis 39.9 - how could I do THIS GREAT EVIL and sin against God!