

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Corinthians 6:13-20**.
- B. The title of this sermon is very correct, pornography is a problem.
- C. It's big business and shouldn't be. Pornography is a "slap in the face" of humanity. For people to be corrupted by pornography shows a tremendous lack of spirituality and Bible knowledge of God's will.
- D. Everything that God has said has been for man's good. His warnings to stay away from certain things are for man's benefit. Such is the case with sexual sin.
- E. Pornography is big business. According to *U.S. News and World Report*, the industry grossed an estimated \$8 billion in 1997. That figure represents an expenditure of about \$30 per person in the United States. That's more than is spent annually on gambling!
- F. We are in the midst of a battle. Indeed, this is spiritual warfare. We must have a battle plan to fight pornography. Our battle plan must include our recognizing pornography for what it is, who the victims are and how to bring healing to them and strategies to turn the tide regarding the devastating influence of pornography in our country.
- G. Tonight's lesson has four parts:
 - 1. Pornography's profile.
 - 2. Facts about pornography.
 - 3. What the Bible says about sexual sins.
 - 4. What you can do to fight against pornography.

I. PORNOGRAPHY'S PROFILE.

- A. In 1996, Americans spent more than \$8 billion on hard-core videos, peep shows, live sex acts, adult cable programming, sexual devices, computer porn, and sex magazines -- and amount much larger than Hollywood's domestic box office receipts and larger than all the revenues generated by rock and country music recordings [3].
- B. Most of the profits being generated by porn today are being earned by businesses not traditionally associated with the sex industry -- by mom and pop video stores; long-distance carriers like AT&T; by cable companies like Time Warner and Tele-Communications Inc. Hotel chains like *Marriott*, *Hyatt*, and *Holiday Inn* now reportedly earn millions of dollars each year by supplying adult films to their guests [4].
- C. Despite having some of the toughest restrictions on sexually explicit materials of any Western industrialized nation, the U.S. is now by far the world's leading producer of porn, churning out hard-core videos at the astonishing rate of about 150 new titles a week [5].
- D. In 1996, Americans spent more than \$150 million ordering adult movies on PPV [6].
- E. Since 1991, the number of hard-core titles released each year has increased by 500% [8].
- F. *Playboy's* web site, which offers free glimpses of it playmates, now averages about five million hits a day [9].
- G. There are now more outlets for hard-core pornography in the U.S. than McDonald's restaurants [12].
- H. The introduction of pornography to the information highway has made home computers the fastest growing and primary mode of distribution of illegal pornography.

II. FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PORNOGRAPHY.

- A. A simple definition of pornography is sexual sins portrayed in narrative or picture form.
- B. Dr. Jerry R. Kirk in a little book called *A Winnable War, How to fight Pornography in your Community* lists 11 things you need to know about pornography:
 - 1. What is pornography?
 - a. It is the representation of sexually explicit behavior intended to arouse sexual excitement.
 - b. Soft-core pornography is not usually illegal depicting adult nudity and non-explicit sexual activity between adults.

- c. Hard-core pornography depicts acts of sexual intercourse and can include violence.
 - d. Child pornography depicts children engaged in sexual activity with adults and other children.
 - e. Pornography is a perversion that attacks everything God cherishes. Man is made in God's image. Therefore, the theological foundation against pornography begins with the premise that every human life has dignity and is sacred (Gen. 1:27).
And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
 - f. Pornography is destroying the innocence of children (Mk. 9:42). It has been estimated that approximately 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 7 boys will be sexually molested before the age of 18. The relationship of pornography to child sexual abuse is compelling. Seventy-seven percent of those who molested boys and 87% of those who molested girls said they were regular users of hard-core pornography.
"And whoever causes one of these little ones who believe to stumble, it would be better for him if, with a heavy millstone hung around his neck, he had been cast into the sea."
 - g. Pornography is a lie. Pornography says the best sex is outside of marriage. It promises what it cannot deliver. Proverbs 9:17 tells us that "stolen waters are sweet..." But Prov. 14:12 tells us, "There is a way which seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."
2. What is obscenity?
 - a. The Supreme Court has established a 3-part test to define obscenity and all three of these things must be true:
 - 1) The average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to prurient (lustful or carnal) interests.
 - 2) The work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by applicable state law.
 - 3) The work-as a whole-lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value.
 - b. The Supreme Court has ruled repeatedly that obscenity is NOT protected by the First Amendment.
 3. What is censorship?
 - a. Censorship is the restriction of speech or writing material BEFORE they have been heard by or distributed to the public.
 - b. The legal remedy is the restriction of the materials AFTER they have been reviewed by the courts and judged as harmful and illegal.
 4. What is child pornography?
 - a. Child pornography is the photographing of real children who are forced or seduced to engage in sexual activity, either with adults or other children. Child pornography is particularly offensive because its production necessarily involves child sexual abuse and exploitation.
 - b. Many people are shocked to learn that it has been estimated that approximately 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 7 boys will be sexually molested before age 18. The typical serial child molester will abuse more than 360 victims over the course of his lifetime. He is able to abuse 30-60 children before he is even caught for the first time [15]. This abuse has affected millions of American families.
 - c. The relationship of pornography to child sexual abuse is compelling. In a study of convicted child molesters, 77% of those who molested boys said they were regular users of hard-core pornography. And 87% of those who molested girls boys said they were regular users of hard-core pornography [16].
 - d. UNICEF reports that one million children each year are forced into prostitution and used to make pornography.

5. What effects does pornography have?
 - a. Addiction to the materials and repeated return to them for sexual excitement.
 - b. Escalation in the individual's need for rougher and more sexually shocking materials to get the same level of sexual stimulation each time.
 - c. Desensitization toward initially gross and shocking material so that, in time, it becomes acceptable and commonplace.
 - d. Inclination to start "acting out" sexual activities seen in pornography.
6. What other "spill-over" effects does pornography have?
 - a. False notions about women "wanting" to be raped, especially through depictions of women enjoying sexual assault (rape, bondage, beatings and then begging for more).
 - b. Encouragement of adultery, hence, the breakdown of the family structure.
 - c. Encouragement of careless, indiscriminate sex, when sexual disease is rampant and teen pregnancy is at an all-time high.
- D. As you can easily see pornography is a big, big problem.

III. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT SEXUAL SINS.

- A. Man can sin with his body. God does not tolerate any kind of sexual sin, either the real thing or the distribution of it (pornography).
- B. Listed below are some things the Bible defines as sexual sins:
 1. Lust, the very first thing done by pornographic material (Mt. 5:27-28).
 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY'; **28** but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart."
 2. Homosexuality and lesbianism is condemned (Rom. 1:26-27).
 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, **27** and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.
 3. Fornication and adultery are condemned (1Cor. 6:9; Mt. 19:9).
 (Mt 19:9) "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."
 (1Cor 6:9) Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,
 4. Sex is only allowed in the context of marriage (Heb. 13:4).
 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.
 5. All immoral persons will burn in the lake of fire (Rev. 21:8; Lk. 17:1-2).
 (Lk 17:1-2) And He said to His disciples, "It is inevitable that stumbling blocks should come, but woe to him through whom they come! **2** "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should cause one of these little ones to stumble.
 (Rev 21:8) "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

IV. WHAT YOU CAN DO.

- A. The following suggestions are my own. I think these will help rid your life and maybe rid the lives of your friends and neighbors of the problems of pornography.
- B. You can:
 1. Pray about the problem and ask for God's help. When is the last time you prayed about the problem of pornography? Prayer does make a difference.
 2. Study and memorize the passages we have already looked at to know for certain that God does not tolerate sexual sins or those who promote them (Lk. 17:1,2).
 3. Rid your home of all questionable material having to do with sexual matters, this can also mean records, tapes, etc.

4. Screen television programs with VCR (either tape to see if good or edit questionable parts for later viewing by others) and/or watch the programs with your children to be able to edit material. Know what programs are being shown each night as to effectively choose materials.
5. Teach your children and friends and neighbors about the problems caused by pornography. Ignorance is not bliss, ignorance means damnation!
6. Plan wholesome events to keep family members and others from having the time or interest in these kinds of pornographic media. Doing what is good and right properly excludes that which is wrong.
7. Write letters to the editor complaining about pornography, write to the bookstores, movie rentals places, theaters and drug stores that handle pornographic materials announcing your unwillingness to patronize such places due to their lack of decency.
8. Remember also the admonition of Paul in Phil. 4:8. We need to fill our minds with good things. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Pornography should be opposed because:
 1. It exploits and degrades people.
 2. It undermines families.
 3. It distorts personal and social relationships.
 4. It reduces the gift of sexuality to a level that lacks personal dignity, human tenderness, mutual love and ethical commitment which are part of God's plan.
- B. We need not be rude, or act in any kind of unchristian manner when it comes to dealing with those who deal in pornography. We are to return good for evil and not evil for evil.
- C. We can show love to those caught up in the pornography problem and still be firm in the opposition of such material.
- D. Sin, no matter if sexual or otherwise needs to be repented of.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.

RESOURCES AND ENDNOTES.

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B. Organizations.

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| 1. Enough is Enough
Roger and Dee Jepsen
P.O. Box 888
Fairfax, VA 22030
Phone: (703) 278-8384
Web site: www.enough.org | 2. Monique Nelson
P.O. Box 30117
Santa Ana, CA 92705
Phone: (714) 435-9056 |
| 3. Morality and Media
Robert W. Peters, President
475 Riverside Dr., Ste. 239
New York, NY 10115
Phone: (212) 870-3222
Fax: (212) 870-2765
E-mail: mimnyc@ix.netcom.com
Web site: www.netcom.com/~mimnyc | 4. National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Families
800 Compton Rd., Ste. 9224
Cincinnati, OH 45231
Phone: (531) 521-6227
Fax: (531) 521-6337
Web site: www.nationalcoalition.org |

C. Helpful Hot Line Numbers.

1. **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children:** (800) 823-7653.
2. **American Family Association Hot Line:** (800) 366-8387.
3. **Minirith Meier National Counseling Hot Line:** (800) 639-5433.

D. Endnotes:

1. Both national Commissions to study pornography agreed that among the largest consumer groups of pornography are 12-17 year old adolescent males.
2. www.enough.org.
3. Eric Schlosser, "The Business of Pornography," *US News and World Report*, February 10, 1997.
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Ibid.*
6. *Ibid.*
8. *Ibid.*
9. *Ibid.*
12. www.enough.org.
15. Dr. Gene Abel, Emory University.
16. W. Marshall, Report on the Use of Pornography by Sexual Offenders, Report to the Federal Department of Justice, Ottawa, Canada. 1983.
17. The *New York Times*, 1988.
18. www.enough.org.
19. W. Marshall, "Use of Sexually Explicit Stimuli by Rapists, Child Molesters and Non-Offenders," 25 *Journal of Sex Research* 267, 1988.
20. Uniform Crime Report, 1990.
21. U.S. Department of Justice, "Child Pornography, Obscenity and Organized Crime," February 1988.
22. Dennis Prager, "Pornography: We are asking the wrong question," *Ultimate Issues*, Spring 1988, p. 4.
23. *Ibid.*
24. *Ibid.*

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