



The Pornographic Age
&
**VICTORY
IN CHRIST**

David W. Cloud

The Pornographic Age and Victory in Christ

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PO Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061
866-295-4143 (toll free) - fbns@wayoflife.org
www.wayoflife.org

Canada:

Bethel Baptist Church
4212 Campbell St. N., London Ont. N6P 1A6
519-652-2619 (voice) - 519-652-0056 (fax)
info@bethelbaptist.ca

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Contents

| | |
|--|-----|
| Way of Life Bible College..... | 7 |
| Lesson 1 - Introduction | 10 |
| Pornography the definition | 10 |
| Pornography an omnipresent problem..... | 11 |
| Victory is available..... | 18 |
| Victory is God's will..... | 19 |
| Victory is a whole life business | 20 |
| Victory - three major aspects | 21 |
| Victory is the Bible way not the psychology way..... | 23 |
| The importance of modest dress..... | 25 |
| Lesson 2 - The Destructive Nature of Pornography..... | 26 |
| "Flee also youthful lusts" (2 Ti. 2:22). | 26 |
| Lesson 3 - Salvation..... | 43 |
| Salvation - the new life in Christ (Eph. 1-3, 12) | 44 |
| Lesson 4 - The New Testament Church..... | 55 |
| Lesson 5 - Putting Off and Putting On..... | 62 |
| Lesson 6 - Putting Away Uncleaness | 71 |
| Lesson 7 - Walking Circumspectly | 78 |
| Lesson 8 - Being Filled with the Spirit..... | 86 |
| Lesson 9 - The Christian Home..... | 93 |
| Lesson 10 - The Whole Armor of God | 101 |
| Lesson 11 - Immersion in Scripture Part 1 | 110 |
| "But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night" (Psalm 1:2). | 110 |
| The Bible's emphasis on immersion in Scripture..... | 110 |
| An Effectual Bible Study Habit | 114 |
| Lesson 12 - Immersion in Scripture Part 2 | 131 |
| Bible Memorization | 131 |
| Pursuing a Serious Bible Education | 133 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Lesson 13 - Immersion in Scripture Part 3 | 139 |
| A Biblical Testing Mindset | 139 |
| Lesson 14 - Confession of Sin..... | 157 |
| Lesson 15 - Unplugging from Temptation | 161 |
| Lesson 16 - Accountability..... | 182 |
| A Smartphone Oversight Program..... | 185 |
| Lesson 17 - Conclusion and Review | 195 |
| Student Projects..... | 200 |
| Resources..... | 201 |

Sample

Course Materials

Course materials may be downloaded from the course description page. See link below.

Course download materials consist of Syllabus, Review Questions, Tests, and Score Sheet. The linked page also contains a link to the course videos.

www.wayoflife.org/publications/books/pavic.php

Scripture Memory Program

There is a companion scripture memory program available. It is a part of the course download.

You will find a course download button on the course description page:

www.wayoflife.org/publications/books/pavic.php

Simeon Western, Pastor, Northside Baptist Church, Adelaide, Australia: “You have heard of a pandemic. What we have in our churches that is even more dangerous is a porndemic. I don’t enjoy having to tackle this problem. I wish I didn’t have to talk about it. It makes me faint to look at it because it is like ten Goliaths facing us all at once. But I have come to a realization in my experience today that this porndemic is not going to go away, and whether we like it or not, as parents, as pastors, we are going to have to face this battle. And you’ve got to be awake to it, and you’ve got to be alert to it, because it is destroying families, it is destroying marriages, it is destroying lives. Wantonness has taken over the people of God. It is killing the spirituals lives of so many Christian men. And I’ve been praying, ‘Lord, what do I do about it as a pastor? How can we tackle this more effectively?’ And I think maybe this is of the Lord, but the thought that came to mind is that we need to go on the offense. That means that you as a parent need to be involved in this because if you are not careful your ten year old could get hooked on your unprotected device. The amount of young men I have counseled would shock you, and guess where they got hooked on porn? In their home school bedrooms on unprotected devices which parents let into their home and did not think carefully and wisely about what they were doing. There is forgiveness and restoration and such, and I’m not trying to smash you down if you have made mistakes as parents, but you had better get on your knees and say, ‘God, forgive me for being unwatchful, forgive me for not being alert, and now my son or daughter is practically an addict, and I’m going to have to fast and pray and get my hands dirty to lift them out of the pit in which I, to a degree, allowed them to get into.’”

Way of Life Bible College

The Pornographic Age and Victory in Christ is part of the *Way of Life Bible College* which replaced the *Advanced Bible Studies Series* in 2023. The course has video classes, textbook, syllabus, review questions, tests, and a memory verse journal.

The video classes cover the highlights of the course. It is up to the student to go through all of the material so he can answer the review questions and take the tests.

The course is for all of God's people. It is designed to fortify the New Testament church and the Christian home against the particular dangers of the internet age. It is for those who have become entangled in pornography. It is for those who have a habit of feeding sexual lust by any means: television programs, movies, social media, sports magazines, women's magazines, video games, whatever. Sexual lust is sin, and it doesn't matter the channel, it is still sin and it is still habit forming. This course is for all of God's people at any age and level of spiritual maturity. We live in an evil time, and prevention is the best medicine. It is far better that all of God's people be fortified against evil addictions by life-changing salvation and a zealous biblical lifestyle. It is far better that children grow up knowing the holy Scriptures, becoming wise unto salvation, surrendering their lives to Christ, and learning how to walk in the Spirit and becoming diligent servants of Christ, and thus avoid the corruption of surrender to the world, the flesh, and the devil.

This course is very practical. It is for pastors, parents, individuals, young and old, male and female. It is designed to fortify the New Testament church and the Christian home against the particular dangers of the internet age. The victory is not one or two things; it is not an addiction program; it is the full-orbed Christian life that we see in the New Testament Scripture. *The Pornographic Age and Victory in Christ* aims to

help the student to be sure of his salvation, to recognize the characteristics of a sound church, to be plugged into a New Testament church, to establish an effectual daily Bible study habit, to pursue a life-long Bible education, to become a teacher in order to help others, to walk in the Spirit, to put off the old man and put on the new, to have a biblical testing mindset, to put on the whole armor of God, to unplug from temptation, and to have an accountability program.

The Student's Responsibility

It is the student's responsibility to learn the course. You can't depend on the teacher and the classes. The teacher's role is to guide, to explain, to help, and to teach highlights of the course. But the teacher can't actually teach you in the sense of putting the Word of God into your mind and heart and life.

The student will get as much from the course as he or she puts into it. For the greatest benefit, the student must do the following:

- (1) He must listen actively to the classroom teaching either on the videos or by a teacher. He must do his best to capture the teaching. He must follow along in the textbook and write down things that aren't in the textbook. He must lean into the teaching, give it his full attention, and refuse to be distracted.
- (2) The student must study the textbook on his own, including those sections not covered in the classes.
- (3) The student must use the review questions to prepare for the tests. This is a very important part of learning the material. The first step is for the student to answer as many of the review questions as he can without the textbook. Next, he consults the textbook to check his answers and to find the answers to the questions he could not answer. Finally, he should access the review question answers and check them against his answers.
- (4) The student must take the tests, then go back and find the answer to every question that is missed. The tests are based on

the review questions. The tests are taken with the textbook closed.

(5) Participate in *The Pornographic Age and Victory in Christ Memory Verse Journal*, which is available as part of *The Pornographic Age* course materials at the Way of Life web site.

(6) Be a faithful, active member of a sound New Testament church.

(7) Become a serious, lifelong Bible student.

(8) Find a way to have an accountability partner as we discuss in Lesson 16.

The Necessity of a Supervisor

If the student is taking the course by himself and not as part of a class, it is imperative that he or she find someone to supervise the studies. The supervisor can be a relative, pastor, teacher, or friend. The supervisor must be capable, dependable, and committed to the task of supervising the student's progress through the course. This entails (1) making sure that the student completes the studies in a timely fashion, (2) checking the assignments, and (3) overseeing the testing.

Way of Life Bible College

<https://www.wayoflife.org/bible-college/>

Courses

<https://www.wayoflife.org/courses/>

Lesson 1 - Introduction

Outline

Pornography the definition

Pornography an omnipresent problem

Victory is available

Victory is God's will

Victory is a whole life business.

Victory - three major aspects

Victory is the Bible way, not the psychology way

The importance of modest dress

Memory Verses for Next Lesson (Lesson 2) - Proverbs 5:4-5

Pornography the definition

The modern definition is “printed or visual material containing explicit descriptions or displays intended to stimulate sexual excitement.”

Christ delved into man's most intimate thought life and defined pornography as anything a man looks on in order to commit unlawful lust. “But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart” (Mt. 5:28). **Christ taught that adultery is first of all a sin of the mind and heart. It is a sin of a certain kind of looking. It is a sin of a certain kind of thinking.** You can have a pornographic mind even if you don't have access to the internet.

The first pornography I encountered as a boy was the Sears & Roebuck catalog's sections on women's underwear and the bathing beauties at Florida pools and beaches.

By the Bible's standard, society is *absolutely filled with* pornography.

Pornography an omnipresent problem

In the internet age, pornography is a problem, known or unknown, in probably every Bible-believing church across the world.

The following situation could be multiplied endlessly. This was addressed to me in 2024 by an independent Baptist pastor.

“I have been approached by a man in our church looking for help overcoming porn. We have other men in our church who are struggling with this as well. I see a need to do something here for the men of the church. On one hand, I believe that I am doing something by preaching and teaching God's Word, but I would like to do more to help. As a pastor, this is definitely something that I need to address and help the men of the church, whether it be for prevention or for discontinuation. I would greatly appreciate any thoughts or suggestions concerning any of the above. Thank you!”

The church that is not dealing aggressively with this issue is a church that will probably be leavened with sexual sin and ruined.

The reason is two-fold.

First, this is a problem in every church because of the times in which we live.

“You have heard of a pandemic. What we have in our churches that is even more dangerous is a **porndemic**. ... I have come to a realization in my experience today that this porndemic is not going to go away, and whether we like it or not, as parents, as pastors, we are going to have to face this battle. And you've got to be awake to it, and you've got to be alert to it, because it is destroying families, it is destroying marriages, it is destroying lives. Wantonness has taken over the people of God. It is

killing the spirituals lives of so many Christian men” (Pastor Simeon Western, Northside Baptist Church, Adelaide, Australia).

Pornography and the sexualization of society existed in the ancient world.

Israel in times of apostasy was highly sexualized.

“... they then committed adultery, and assembled themselves by troops in the harlots’ houses. They were as fed horses in the morning: every one neighed after his neighbour’s wife” (Jer. 5:7-8).

“For the land is full of adulterers” (Jer. 23:10).

“in the midst of thee they commit lewdness. In thee have they discovered their fathers’ nakedness: in thee have they humbled her that was set apart for pollution. And one hath committed abomination with his neighbour’s wife; and another hath lewdly defiled his daughter in law; and another in thee hath humbled his sister, his father’s daughter” (Eze. 22:9-11).

“... and a man and his father will go in unto the *same* maid, to profane my holy name” (Am. 2:7).

“They *are* all adulterers, as an oven heated by the baker, *who* ceaseth from raising after he hath kneaded the dough, until it be leavened” (Hos. 7:4).

The pagan Roman world, which was the culture of the first century churches, was highly sexualized. They didn’t have internet, but they had pornographic writings, omnipresent images of lewd goddesses, temple prostitution, Bacchus orgies, and filthy talking. The emperors were hyper sexualized. Most were bisexual and many of them preferred boys as sexual partners. All of the Roman cities were sexualized. They featured houses of prostitution. The very name of the city of Corinth referred to fornication. “So notorious was this city for such conduct, that the verb *to corinthize* signified to act the prostitute, and a Corinthian

damsel meant a harlot or common woman” (Adam Clarke). Ephesus was world famous for wicked sexuality. The Olympic games were performed in the nude. The private homes in the Roman resort city Pompeii were filled with pornography in the form of filthy paintings and wall frescoes. Two millennia after the inhabitants were carried away by the explosion of Mt. Vesuvius, their shameful thoughts and deeds are on display in the Pompeii museum.

But pornography is a plague today as never before in history.

“You face more sexual temptations in a year than most Christian men faced in their lifetimes” (Alan Sharpe).

We live in the most sexualized age in history. We live in Corinth on steroids! In Solomon’s day, the strange woman had to lurk in the darkness and find a man, and a man had to find her (Proverbs 7). Today, the “strange woman” appears in billions of photographs, movies, web sites, social media pages, and YouTube videos, and anyone can communicate with her at the click of a mouse or the touch of a screen. The goddess is omnipresent; the strange woman is everywhere!

There is a saying, “Porn is the drug, and the internet is the drug dealer” (David Brady, *The Roadmap to Sexual Freedom*).

The National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE) warns, “The pornification of culture (i.e. softcore, hypersexualized imagery) is widespread and evident everywhere, from the grocery store checkout lane to advertising, popular entertainment, unsolicited email, and beyond. ... pornography constitutes a public health crisis.”

Advertisements are sexualized. **Toys** are sexualized. *Barbie* is not an innocent baby doll! **The movie industry** is sexualized, whether it be Hollywood or Bollywood. **Pop music** is sexualized. More than 90% of the most watched YouTube music videos are highly sexualized. Taylor Swift has made over \$1.5 billion by selling sexualization via words, tunes, and images. The music industry doesn’t glorify holy marriage; it

glorifies fornication. Pop music “love” is actually lust. A large percentage of **video games** are sexualized. **The fashion industry** is hyper-sexualized. Even the **news media** is sexualized, being filled with “soft porn” that seems mild by today’s standards but is adulterous by God’s standard “that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart” (Mt. 5:28). **The public education system** is sexualized, starting with elementary school. The sexualized pop culture fills the minds of the children and sets the standard for how they dress, speak, and act. This is enhanced by the promotion of evolution and relative morality, sex education, and now sex change education. In 2022, I asked a Chicago high school student how many of his fellow students use pornography, and he casually replied, “100%.”

Josh McDowell, author of *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, has traveled in a teaching/apologetic ministry since 1964 and has spoken to large numbers of young people. In about 2010 he began to see a dramatic change in the attitude of young people in his meetings.

“I began to sense something was seriously wrong. I couldn’t quite put my finger on it. Whatever it was, **it was negatively affecting the receptivity of young people to the biblical faith** that parents and churches so desperately want to pass on. **After a lot of questions and investigation, I concluded that young people are being overwhelmed by internet pornography.** The easy access our kids have to pornography is distorting their views of morality and the Christian faith” (*The Porn Phenomenon*, Barna, “Preface”).

McDowell began to see this terrible change in 2010, which was just three years after the introduction of the iPhone.

McDowell helped sponsor a data-gathering project by Barna Research in 2015 entitled *The Porn Phenomenon*. It found that 55% of U.S. adults used pornography, among pastors over

50% had struggled with porn in the past or were struggling with it in the present, and over 50% of young pastors said at least one teen had approached them in the past year seeking help with porn.

McDowell said that from his perspective, **in most churches the men are broken and the children are not healthy.**

These are “evangelical” churches. It is impossible to know where things actually stand in “fundamentalist” churches, but we do know that a great number of fundamentalist-type churches are biblically shallow and spiritually weak.

We must remember this was 2015, which is a very long time ago when it comes to the internet. By all counts, the situation is much worse today. (In the 2024 Barna survey, pornography use among U.S. adults overall rose to 61%.)

We must understand, too, that we are at the dawn of the virtual reality advance into pornography. “VR systems such as Oculus Rift, Samsung Gear VR and HoloLens immerse the user visually and sonically in a virtual world. In the near future, all three systems will have add-on devices that bring other parts of the user’s body into the virtual space--meaning a user won’t just see and hear but also touch and feel virtual objects and people as if they were real” (*The Porn Phenomenon*, Barna).

We are also at the dawn of AI (artificial intelligence) and it is not difficult to imagine that it will be used to “create” images of any man, women, or child in any type of body doing whatever the user fantasizes. The merging of reality and unreality will explode in coming days as the preparations for “the man of sin” move forward. (Of course, the Rapture will conclude the “preparation” period--the “mystery of iniquity,” which has been operating since Paul’s day, 2 Th. 2:7--and usher in the real deal.)

The sexualization has reached young children. Jesse Weinberger, who wrote the smartphone and internet safety book *The Boogeyman Exists: And He's in Your Child's Back Pocket*, surveyed 70,000 children and found that, **on average, pornography consumption began when children turned 8 and pornography addiction began around age 11.** That was in 2014!

A missionary wrote as follows:

“Pornography is everywhere now, and it is an addiction worse than drug addiction. Speaking highly confidentially to the youth we are dealing with in a nearby development, they all admit that having this curse in their pockets [smartphone] is far easier than seeking it [pornography] in the movies or in books. Truly, brother, this ‘affliction’ has affected many, as you know, from the highest (pastors and other leaders) right down to the lowest (primary school children).”

So the first reason porn is a problem in every church and is an issue that must be dealt with is because of the times in which we live.

Second, this is a problem in every church because of man's fallen nature.

“It's often been said that there's no force on earth more powerful than the sex drive” (Emeal Zwayne, *Fight Like a Man*).

When man sinned, his heart became dark and corrupt. Before Adam sinned, he was pure in mind and heart. He saw everything through pure eyes. The man and woman were naked but there were no corrupt thoughts. As soon as Adam sinned against God, his heart became corrupt. “The heart is deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9). “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications ... wickedness ... lasciviousness, an evil eye...” (Mr. 7:21-22).

The male is particularly moved sexually by his eyes.

Matthew 5:27-28, “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That **WHOSOEVER LOOKETH ON A WOMAN TO LUST AFTER HER** hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.” Jesus taught that adultery is first of all a matter of the heart. It is a lustful look.”

Job 31:1, “I made a covenant with **MINE EYES**; why then should I think upon a maid?” Job, the man of God, understood the danger of looking at a maid and guarded himself against it.

Proverbs 4:25, “Let **THINE EYES LOOK RIGHT ON**, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.”

Proverbs 6:25, “Lust not after **HER BEAUTY** in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.”

Proverbs 7:6-10, “For at the window of my house I looked through my casement, And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding, Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house, In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night. And, behold, there met him a woman with **THE ATTIRE OF AN HARLOT**, and subtil of heart.” This woman understood men and went fishing for a man by the way she was dressed.

2 Samuel 11:2, “And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king’s house: and from the roof **HE SAW** a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon” (2 Sa. 11:2).

The woman, on the other hand, is enticed more by words and “romantic” actions (e.g., smiles, kind deeds, gifts), but she can become corrupted so that she is attracted to pornography, and that is what is happening today. According to Barna

Research, women viewing porn rose from 39% to 44% of the population in America between 2015 and 2024.

We see this process in Romans 1. “God gave them up unto vile affections: for **even their women** did change the natural use into that which is against nature” (v. 26). The world today is filled with unnatural sex because of the sexualization of society and the way that people are filling their minds with evil. God has given large numbers of men and women over to perversion and this terrible business is increasing continually. It will end in the global judgment of God in the day of the Lord. Even in the midst of terrible judgments, most men will not repent of “their fornication” (Re. 9:21).

Victory is available

In 2016, Josh McDowell, evangelical author and speaker, warning about rapidly growing pornography use among church members, said, “I’ll tell you right now, there is not one church, one Christian leader, one pastor, including myself, that has an answer for it. No traditional message or solution will work” (“Barna Group Survey,” *Christianity Daily*, Jan. 21, 2016).

That is absolutely not true. It is contrary to God’s Word. The “evangelical” churches that McDowell is associated with might not have the answer to victory over adultery and fornication, but God does.

If you are saved, you *can* have victory. Victory is available by God’s grace and power.

“According as his divine power hath given unto us ALL THINGS that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue” (2 Pe. 1:3).

The redeemed are called to “glory and virtue.” That is glory in Christ’s glorious kingdom and virtue in this present life. God

Lesson 2 - The Destructive Nature of Pornography

Contents

Pornography will corrupt your mind and heart and take you on a downward spiral.

Pornography will displease the Lord who saved you.

Pornography will grieve the Holy Spirit.

Pornography will harm Christ's reputation.

Pornography will make you a defeated backslider.

Pornography will enslave you.

Pornography will corrupt the conscience.

Pornography will make you a hypocrite and a liar.

Pornography will harm your marriage.

Pornography will harm your relationship with your children.

Pornography will destroy or harm your ministry.

Pornography will bring the chastening of God.

Pornography can cause you to be devoured by the devil.

Pornography addiction will be found out.

Pornography will rob you at Christ's judgment seat.

Memory Verses for Next Lesson (Lesson 3) - Ephesians 2:8-10

“Flee also youthful lusts” (2 Ti. 2:22).

Understanding the destructive nature of pornography is what will motivate you to do whatever is necessary to get the victory over it.

Dealing with a pornographic addiction is like dealing with an alcohol or drug addiction. You must be desperate. You must know it is a matter of doing or dying, sinking or swimming. You must be willing to do *whatever is necessary* for victory and to *keep on doing it*.

In this chapter, I want to frighten Christian men and women. I want to frighten us so much that we will flee pornography as from a hungry, raging lion or a poisonous serpent or a burning house. This battle is only going to get more intense.

Proverbs, the book of practical wisdom, has *many sharp warnings* of the consequences of sexual impurity which is described as association with “the strange woman.” Proverbs is first of all a book of wisdom for children and young people (Pr. 1:4; 4:1; 5:7; 7:24; 8:32, etc.). Prevention is the best medicine, and the best way to prevent young people from going astray is to lead them to salvation in Jesus Christ and to disciple them in God’s Word.

“For **her house inclineth unto death**, and her paths unto the dead. None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life” (Pr. 2:18-19).

“But **her end is bitter as wormwood**, sharp as a twoedged sword. **Her feet go down to death**; her steps take hold on hell (Pr. 5:4-5).

“Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house: Lest thou give thine honor unto others, and thy years unto the cruel: Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labors be in the house of a stranger; **And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed**, And say, **How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof**; And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me! I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly” (Pr. 5:8-14).

“His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and **he shall be holden with the cords of his sins**. He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray” (Pr. 5:22-23).

“For by means of a whorish woman **a man is brought to a piece of bread**: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life. Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?” (Pr. 6:26-28).

“*But* whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he *that* doeth it destroyeth his own soul. **A wound and dishonor shall he get**; and his reproach shall not be wiped away” (Pr. 6:32-33).

“He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life. ... Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths. **For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her. Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death**” (Pr. 7:22-23, 25-27).

Pornography will corrupt your mind and heart and take you on a downward spiral.

“Every time a man looks at pornography or gives over to some other form of sexual sin, his mind becomes more polluted, his heart more blackened and his perspectives more distorted. ... I cannot begin to count the men I have ministered to over the years who never imagined where their indulgence of lust ... would lead them. Anyone who starts down this road can quickly find himself veering out of control. If you are given over to lust, fantasies, or pornography, you are on dangerous ground” (Steve Gallagher, *At the Altar of Sexual Idolatry*).

“Men who view pornography for any length of time need ever-harder forms of the product. They must graduate to something more wicked, more hardcore, more illegal, to get the same level of arousal they once enjoyed with milder stuff. Talk with any sexual offender

...serving time for rape, child sexual abuse or worse, and you'll find a man who started his journey with softcore pornography at a young age--and kept going" (Alan Sharpe, "50 Consequences to Expect If You Never Forsake Your Porn," *Make No Provision*).

When David committed secret adultery, his heart and spirit became unclean. We see this when he confessed his sin as he begged God to "create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me" (Ps. 51:10).

Pornography use is a downward spiral which can lead to the very depths of wickedness. Romans 1 describes this frightful descent.

"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to **UNCLEANNES**S through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto **VILE AFFECTIONS**: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to **A REPROBATE MIND**, to do those things which are not convenient" (Ro. 1:21-28).

Note in Romans 1 the descent into deeper depravity. It begins with not being thankful to God and not glorifying Him in one's life. The imagination becomes vain and the heart becomes darkened. "**God gave them up**" is repeated three times (Ro. 1:24, 26, 28). It is the Greek *paradidomi*, from *para* (to the side of) and *didomi* (to give), meaning "to deliver over or up to the power of" (*Complete Word Study Bible*). It is often used for delivering someone to prison or to some other punishment (Mt. 4:12; 5:25; 10:17, 19, 21; 18:34; 20:19; 24:9; 26:15; 27:2, 26).

The descent into ever-deeper depravity is as follows:

- **uncleanness** in general ("uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves," v. 24). This is general uncleanness, male-female uncleanness. God made man's sexual appetite to be fulfilled in marriage, and outside of marriage sexual activity is unclean and dishonoring.
- **vile affections** ("God gave them up unto vile affections," v. 26). "**Vile**" is *atimia*, which is translated "dishonor" (Ro. 9:21), "shame" (1 Co. 11:14), "reproach" (2 Co. 11:21). This passage contains fundamental Bible teaching on the issue of homosexuality. God looks upon this as a great evil. It is condemned in the law of Moses (Le. 18:22, 25; 20:13). It was the reason why God judged Sodom (Jude 1:7). The error of homosexuality consists both of affections and actions (Ro. 1:26). God's Word condemns homosexual desires as sinful. "**Affection**" is *pathos*, referring to a strong passion, a desire. It is translated "lust" (1 Th. 4:5). "**Burned**" is *ekkaio*, to burn intensely, referring to sexual passion. "**Lust**" is *orexis*, "stretching after, desire." "It is reaching out after an object with the purpose of drawing it to oneself and appropriating it" (*Complete Word Study Bible*). This refutes the idea that homosexual desires are OK if not acted on. Christ made it clear that sinful desires are the same in God's eyes as the actions (Mt. 5:21-22, 27-28). The Bible leaves no doubt that God looks upon this as a great evil. It is condemned in the law of Moses (Le. 18:22, 25; 20:13). It was the reason why God judged Sodom (Jude 1:7). Homosexuality is "**against nature**"

(Ro. 1:26). God's Word is clear that the natural form of sexual activity is that between a man and a woman in holy matrimony. Anything outside of that is adultery (Heb. 13:4). This rule was established at the dawn of man's creation (Ge. 2:20-25), and Christ pointed to it as the divine standard for today (Mt. 19:3-6). Homosexuality is "**unseemly**" (Ro. 1:27). This is *aschemosune*, "uncomely, indecent, shameful." It is translated "shame" (Re. 16:15). Homosexuality is "**error**" (Ro. 1:27). "Error" is *plane*, "a wandering out of the right way" (*Complete Word Study Bible*). Homosexuality is not right; it is not according to truth. Homosexuality results in judgment ("receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet," Ro. 1:27).

- **a reprobate mind** ("God gave them over to a reprobate mind," v. 28). "**Reprobate**" is *adokimos*, "unacceptable, unapproved, spurious, disapproved." When tested by godly morality and the truth of God's Word, homosexuals are found to be reprobate. Homosexuality is a state of "*mind*" (Ro. 1:28). It begins with corrupt imaginations of the heart (Ro. 1:21). It is a product of allowing the mind to dwell upon filthy and wicked things. When a person allows his mind to dwell upon evil, allows himself to pursue evil in the imagination, he opens the door to every evil thing. FBI profiler Robert Kessler, who has studied serial killers, says, "My research convinced me that the key was not the early trauma but the development of perverse thought patterns. These men were motivated to murder by their fantasies. 'It is a development,' one killer reported, 'Getting tired of a certain level of fantasy and then going even further and even more bizarre.' ... All the murderers that we interviewed had **compelling fantasies**; they murdered to make happen in the real world what they had seen over and over again in their minds since childhood and adolescence. As adolescents, instead of developing normal peer-related interests and activities, where they couldn't completely control what went on, the murderers retreated into sexually violent fantasies, where they could, in effect, control their world" (Kessler, *Whoever Fights Monsters*, p. 110). This is a very loud warning in the internet age and the video game age, when every type of vile imagination is available at the click of a mouse or the swipe of a finger. We can control

what we willfully put into our minds, and we can control what we allow the mind to dwell upon.

This was the descent the Canaanite nations experienced. After the Tower of Babel, the Canaanites, descendants of Ham, occupied the land that took their name (Ge. 10:15-19). They were the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, etc. Their territory was from Sidon in the north to Sodom and Gomorrah in the south. They entered the land about 2000 BC and by the time Israel entered the land, in about 1400 BC, the Canaanites were engaging in every type of sexual wickedness: incest (“near of kin,” Le. 18:6-19), homosexuality (Le. 18:22), even bestiality (Le. 18:23).

Today, the explosion of homosexuality, child molestation, sexual serial killing, even cannibalism, can doubtless be traced in some large extent to the prevalence of pornography. In a series of interviews by rapist/serial killer Ted Bundy before he was put to death, he said that pornography had fueled his wicked passions from childhood.

There is no end to the moral corruption of fallen human nature. It is a bottomless pit of evil. It is a moral cesspool. Man’s heart is “desperately wicked” (Jer. 17:9). Christ said, “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness” (Mr. 7:20-22).

In all of human history, nothing has amplified man’s corrupt nature more than the ready availability of pornography via the internet. It is polluting society in every way at every level. It tends to degrade from “normal” sexuality to perversion of every sort.

“Porn today is more hardcore, is more explicitly degrading and dehumanizing, and places an even greater focus on aggressive sexual activity” (*The Porn Phenomenon*, Barna, p. 20).

The following frightful observations are by Jonathan Van Maren:

“[I]n a recent column for the *Daily Mail*, Holly Bourne [best-selling British author] details **how ubiquitous porn use among young people is creating a toxic rape culture that makes life unbearable for teenage girls. The connection between pornography and sexual violence is a subject I have been reporting on in this space for nearly ten years, but the full reality of what it means to see a generation raised on a diet of sexual violence is still sickening to watch. ... Bourne has been on the frontlines of youth culture, and what she saw scared her so badly she experienced mental trauma as a result. ...** When I started giving presentations on this issue over a decade ago, choking as a sexual practice was unheard of. Now, it is normative. Why? Because pornography has served as sex education for an entire generation ... **Bourne says, ‘the widespread consumption of hardcore pornography is now a public health emergency.’ ...** We are going to find out what that impact is. So far, it is pretty gut-wrenching. ... Broken marriages. An even further rise in sexual confusion and deviancy. That is why calling out this problem in clear terms is so important--and why we should consider not simply addressing porn as a public health crisis, but banning it entirely” (“Pornography is destroying childhood and changing sexual desire,” *The Bridgehead*, Nov. 14, 202).

“Porn addiction is now ubiquitous among young people, and a generation has grown up with their view of sexuality shaped by the extreme and violent content found on major porn sites such as Pornhub. An increasingly toxic sexual environment in which sexual violence has been normalized has been the result. ... Dame Rachel de Souza, Children’s Commissioner of England, recently warned that porn-inspired sexual violence is on the rise even among children. ‘I will never

forget the girl who told me about her first kiss with her boyfriend, aged 12, who strangled her,' de Souza reported. 'He had seen it in pornography and thought it was normal.' He wasn't wrong. A new UK report indicates that 'nearly half of all girls aged 16 to 21 say they've had a partner expect sex to involve physical aggression such as slapping and choking.' **The normalization of sexual violence is the culture-wide consequence of men and boys imagining themselves as the aggressor in millions upon millions of porn scenes.** ... Girls and boys are now coming of age in a dating landscape shaped primarily by pornography. Sexual violence has become normative not just for adults copycatting digital porn and sexual entertainment such as *Fifty Shades of Gray*, but for minors and children as well. Much of the sexual violence that occurs in our society is now simply a part of the way men and women--and boys and girls--treat each other, and most of this behavior takes place in the ever-growing grey zone between consent, crime, and coercion. ... I've been speaking on the issue of pornography, primarily to students, for over a decade, and I can attest to the fact that many girls are terrified of what they see in pornography. **In the videos they encounter, women are virtually always subjected to grotesque maltreatment and even torture. As this pervasive digital rape culture has bled into their reality, it makes sense that some girls would react to these new sexual expectations by rejecting the female identity.** Indeed, it is significant that a growing number of girls are embracing androgyny and identifying as 'non-binary'--many do not necessarily want to transition into boys, they simply do not want to be girls" ("Is Violent Porn Making Girls Identify as Transgender," *The European Conservative*, Feb. 7, 2024).

Pornography will displease the Lord who saved you.

“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; **that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier**” (2 Ti. 2:3-4). “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and **ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price:** therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (1 Co. 6:19-20).

Pornography will grieve the Holy Spirit.

“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. ... But fornication, and all uncleanness ... let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints” (Eph. 4:30; 5:3).

Pornography will harm Christ’s reputation.

“But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints” (Eph. 5:3).

“Pornography will drag Christ’s sacred reputation into the gutter” (Alan Sharpe).

God said that David, by his adultery, had “given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme” (2 Sa. 12:14).

The world can’t see Christ; the world can only see those who profess Christ. Unbelievers love to find fault with God’s people, because they foolishly think they are thereby justified in their sin.

Pornography will make you a defeated backslider.

The individual who is living a secret life of sexual impurity is a backslider at best, if not an unsaved person. He becomes a slave to that sin.