

A publication of
Genuine Joy Ministries

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Men arrive at misleading ideas when viewing porn.
- Most men, some starting as young as age 11, have viewed porn at some time or other.
- Christian men, even pastors and youth workers, when given anonymity admit to spending time viewing porn.
- Pornography is an addiction.

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The Hard Questions

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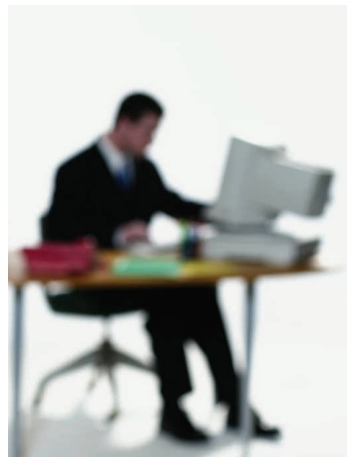
Answers to Life's Hard Questions— Are You Ready?

Dear Joy,

I've been married 13 years and my husband hides and watches pornography. I find this offensive which he knew before we married. Now I can't sleep with him and he refuses to give it up to have a healthy marriage. Should I divorce him or let him watch the porn and go back to our marital bed?

I understand how difficult this is for you. Pornography has invaded our homes via the Web and wreaked havoc in many marriages—even between Christians. I don't know all the ins and outs of your situation but I can address the problem. Men arrive at misleading ideas when viewing porn, some of which are that women are objects to be used not real people; a woman's value derives from the voluptuousness of their body; when a woman says "no" she really means, "yes" and likes being dominated and even tortured.

From the website, www.troublewith.com, Professors Dolf Zillman of Indiana University and Jennings Bryant of the University of Houston found that repeated exposure to pornography results in a decreased satisfaction with one's sexual partner, with the partner's sexuality, a decrease in the valuation of faithfulness and a major increase in



the importance of sex without attachment.

With these facts it makes one wonder why we ever need to discuss this topic on a Christian website but when you look over the statistics you find that most men, some starting as young as age 11, have viewed porn at some time or other. And most startling of all Christian men, even pastors and youth workers, when given anonymity admit to spending time viewing porn. If you would like

to know more you can find up-to-date statistics at: <http://www.provenmen.org/framework/index.php?page=need>.

But what should a Christian wife do when confronted with the situation you have? First and foremost, turn to Jesus, trust Jesus, build up your relationship with Jesus and pray, pray, pray for your husband. You need to spend time daily reading the Bible. If you don't have one, find a good Bible-believing church and attend regularly with or without your husband, and ask God to lead you to a mature Christian woman who can be a prayer partner. Someone you can confide in who will maintain your privacy. I know it's a platitude but there is validity to it: problems can be great opportunities if we will focus on God and ask Him to reveal what the problem can do in one's life.

For instance, this situation can





"My eyes are ever on the Lord, for only He will release my feet from the snare."

Psalm 25:15

and should bring you into a closer walk with Christ. Only then can you be of any help to your husband. I don't advocate divorce, however, sometimes it becomes necessary but using sex to get the behavior you want from him is counter-productive. It will not get you where you want to go. You long for true intimacy with your husband but as long as he focuses on porn that is impossible. The best thing to do is call what he is doing by its real name. He has an addiction. It is a sin and he needs to find his way back to God and should find a Christian counselor able to help him with this. If one doesn't work out find another one. But if your husband refuses to see this as a problem, sin and addiction, and refuses to see a counselor, your recourse may have to be divorce because as Jesus said in Matthew 5: 27 & 28, even lusting after someone other than your spouse is adultery.

I urge you to first try these other avenues before giving up on the marriage. I warn you, though, that finding victory over an addiction may be a long, difficult process for both you and him. But the rewards can be great and you may find you have a stronger and more loving marriage in the end.



RESOURCES & INFO

Web Sites:

[One Way Out of Pornography](#)—Find Answers

[Pure Intimacy—Pornography & Addiction](#)

[Pornography & Cybersex](#)—Filling the Holes in Our Souls

[Soft Porn. No big deal.](#)—Answers to Life's Hard Questions

Books:

Breaking Free by Russell Willingham

I Surrender All: Rebuilding a Marriage Broken by Pornography by Clay Crosse and Mark A Tabb

Hope After Betrayal: Healing When Sexual Addiction Invades Your Marriage by Meg Wilson

HELPING YOU FIND GENUINE JOY!

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QUESTIONS????? Write us.

Sometimes you come up with really hard, tough questions that you don't have the answers to.

At times you're too embarrassed or uncomfortable to ask your friends and family... and when you are brave enough to ask the questions, even they don't always have the answers.

You don't think you have anyone that you can talk to... well now you do.

Genuine Joy Ministries is dedicated to helping you find the answers to life's hardest questions.

One Sunday a three-year-old was acting up rather noisily during Mass.

The parents did their best to maintain some sense of order in the pew but seemed to be losing the battle.

Finally, to avoid further disturbance, the father picked the little fellow up and walked sternly down the aisle to the back of the church.

Just before reaching the safety of the vestibule, the little one called loudly to the congregation, "Pray for me! Pray for me!"

Just For Fun



Keep praying, but be thankful that God's answers are wiser than your prayers!

~William Culbertson

If you know someone who would be interested in or needs to see this newsletter, you can easily add their email address to our mailing list. Just send a quick email to: info@genuinejoyministries.org



THE HARD QUESTIONS — DO YOU HAVE ONE?