

A publication of
Genuine Joy Ministries

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- There is a great acceptance of porn today.
- Many women in porn, who have been abused by others, have become angry & disenchanted with men and use porn as a form of revenge.
- 9 out of 10 children between the ages of 8 and 16 have been exposed to pornography online.

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The Hard Questions

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

There are some changes going on at Genuine Joy Ministries that will be happening over the next few months.

Today, we want to introduce you to **Joy** who will be answering the questions we receive and publish each month.



Dear Joy,

I'm a guy who likes soft porn; isn't it just a harmless outlet? (From a male reader in Colorado)

Pornography is an interesting topic for many reasons. One, because there appears to be a great tidal wave of interest in it which has been a result of its availability on the internet. Two, because it seems there is a great acceptance of porn today, i.e., your referring to it as “soft” porn, suggesting it probably isn't as bad as “hard” porn. Furthermore, there are those who would argue that, “since I do this in the privacy of my own home and for my own pleasure, why would it matter to anyone else, even God?”

I'll start with the meaning of the word, pornography. It is from the Greek, *porne*, which means, prostitute, and *graphein*, meaning, to write, so essentially it means writing or picturing prostitution. Prostitutes are

those who sell their sexual favors—whether by picture or physically—for money. Scripture addresses this in I Corinthians 6:15, 16, 18: “Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, ‘The two will become one flesh?’ Flee from sexual immorality.”

I can hear you respond, “Well, I'm just observing them online not paying, touching or in any other way interacting with the women.” True, today anyway. But what about tomorrow? As with any addiction, you start out with the “soft” stuff and progress to the “hard” stuff.

The next step after viewing online is going to a strip club then, needing something more salacious, using a prostitute, and so it goes. Those starting out will vigorously refute this logical progression and vehemently deny they would get involved any further. And just maybe you could beat the odds and not go into the depths of depravity, but what about the women you are exploiting? What about those around you that you are influencing?

A few years ago I was on a plane out of San Francisco. A very nicely dressed and articulate woman happened to be my seatmate and we started talking. I discovered that she once worked on the Mustang Ranch in Nevada as a prostitute. She said she'd been divorced and left with three



Is the cost really worth it?

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.
Galatians 5:13

Continued from page 1

young children who depended on her for support. Then she haltingly told me of the pain and degradation she experienced during this time, but she had gotten in and couldn't see a way out.

But God—one day on a flight home to visit her kids she sat next to a pastor. He found out her story and right there on the airplane, he led her to the Savior. She left prostitution behind and with God's help found work to support her and her children. An added benefit was being full time with her children and she could barely find the words to express her relief and joy about getting out of prostitution.

Yes, you may find women who proclaim long and loud that they love what they are doing when involved in this seamier side of life but invariably when you get beyond the surface, rebellious attitude, you'll find hungry, needy women who've been abused by others, become angry and disenchanted with men, and have made this their revenge. But it's a revenge that costs them dearly. Does a man who professes to be a Christian really want to be a part of degrading women—and yes, I mean ALL women, even those who don't take part in pornography, for all women are debased by pornography.

Now let's turn to the home front. How does this affect your sex life with your wife, if you're married? I've

heard a lot about porn "enhancing" a couple's sex life. At first there may be a certain degree of titillation and maybe even excitement and probably arousal. The downside is you'll experience less trust from her; she may withdraw and even become jealous. After all, she can't possibly compete with those images. And deep down she realizes, you don't really love her but the "idea" of her as a sex object for your own sexual gratification.

Also, you might want to think through, first, why your sex life needs "enhancing" with porn. That, I believe, is a justification for a lack of communication, intimacy and caring between you and your wife. Are you aware that prayer, more than porn, will enhance your sex life? It's true. Praying together achieves far greater closeness, intimacy and sexual satisfaction than any degree of pornography ever will. Why? You may ask. Because drawing close to God draws a husband and wife closer together. She feels cared for, deeply loved, and more trusting of you. The greater your wife's trust, the more relaxed and into you she'll become. Isn't that what you want?

One more thought before I close: porn is actually detrimental to your relationship with your wife. She may fear she can never please you as those "virtual" babes do because—her body will never look like that, no makeup can ever make her face as beautiful as theirs, and (you fill in the blank)

_____ . She can't compete with those sexy, online woman so she may give up altogether, throw in the towel, quit trying while resenting you for putting her in such a difficult position.

If you haven't yet gotten my message, I will make it plain: I don't recommend pornography—online, in magazines, or in person in order to enhance anything, as ultimately you will find defeat and despair, possibly a divorce and maybe an unexplainable and unwanted STD because, did you know that having sexual relations with one person means you are essentially having sex with all those who have had sex with her? This doesn't bode too well if she's had multiple partners before you. Flee from sexual immorality!



Are you wondering if there's a better way?

Did you know...



More than 25 years ago, Dr. Victor Cline identified the progressive nature of pornography addiction.

Once addicted, a person's need for pornography escalates both in frequency and in deviancy.

Because images are stored in the brain and can be recalled at any moment, experts believe that a porn addiction may be harder to break

than a heroin addiction.

Dr. Patrick Carnes, a leading researcher on sex addiction, estimates that 3 to 6 percent of Americans are sexually addicted. That's as many as 20 million people.

The Justice Department estimates that 9 of 10 children between the ages of 8 and 16 have been exposed to pornography online.

Representatives from the porn industry told Congress' COPA Commission that as much as 20 to 30 percent of the traffic to some porn web sites are children.

One in five adults in the US has an STD and 19 million new STD

infections occur annually, almost half of them among youth ages 15 to 24.

The FBI reports that the most common interest among serial killers is hardcore pornography. Another study found that 87 percent of child molesters were regular consumers of hardcore porn.

Pornography turns people into commodities. The last time the US recognized human beings as consumer goods, it took a civil war to end it.

“I’ve heard a lot about porn “enhancing” a couple’s sex life.”

Further References

WEBSITES:

- www.troublewith.com
- www.truthminers.com
- www.firesofdarkness.com
- www.pureonline.com
- www.pureintimacy.com

BOOKS:

- *Help! Someone I Know Has a Problem with Porn* by Jim Vigorito, Ph.D and Dr. Bill Maier
- *Breaking Free* by Russell Willingham

The monstrosity of sexual intercourse outside of marriage is that those who indulge in it are trying to isolate one kind of union (the sexual) from all the other kinds of union which were intended to go along with it and make up the total union.

C. S. Lewis



Time to choose... What's your choice?

Genuine Joy Ministries

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Helping you find genuine joy!

Scripture quotations taken from the *New International Version*.

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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.

Call us—Write us—Fax us—Email us



Unanswered Questions — Just for Fun

- Why isn't the number 11 pronounced onety-one?
- Why do croutons come in air-tight packages? Aren't they just stale bread to begin with?
- If people from Poland are called Poles, then why aren't people from Holland called Holes?
- If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?
- If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?
- If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, then doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?
- If Fed Ex and UPS were to merge, would they call it Fed UP? ?
- I thought about how mothers feed their babies with tiny little spoons and forks, so I wondered, what do Chinese mothers use. Toothpicks?
- As income tax time approaches, did you ever notice: When you put the two words "The" and "IRS" together, it SPELLS "THEIRS"?
- Is it true that you never really learn to swear until you learn to drive?



THE HARD QUESTIONS — DO YOU HAVE ONE?