

# GOD'S REVIVALIST

September 2013

*and Bible Advocate*



# pornography

**XXX**

## ABOUT THIS ISSUE

**P**ornography is a moral cancer on the soul of society with dire spiritual consequences for all demographics—men, women, children and teens, all social classes, and, sadly, even Christians. This is why we are dedicating this special issue of the *Revivalist* to this topic.

We begin with a general introduction to the problem in Tim Barber's article "The Coming Sexual Tsunami" (p.3) followed by four specialized sections. The first deals with men and pornography. The second section relates to women and pornography as well as the catastrophic effects of pornography on the spouse of the addict. Each of these two sections has a personal testimony of struggle and deliverance.

The third section highlights pornography's effect on children and teenagers and shows that the adolescent brain is at a critical stage of development that can be subverted by exposure to pornography. There is also insight into what makes Internet porn unique.

The fourth and final section presents some answers to the problem. It begins by showing that what porn perverts, God can restore. Allan Brown demonstrates the power of praying the scriptures to combat strongholds. Richard Miles talks about the "best" treatment option. The section ends with President Avery's article on what the Bible says about sexual immorality.

Additionally, throughout this issue there are lists of resource materials—books, software, websites. The reader should be aware that the inclusion of these resources does not mean the *Revivalist* endorses the entirety of their content. In most cases they were recommended by the authors of the various articles. We sincerely pray that God will make this special edition a blessing to all who read it. ■

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# THE COMING **SEXUAL** **TSUNAMI**

by Tim Barber

On Sunday, December 26, 2004, an earthquake occurred deep in the Indian Ocean. The tsunami that followed killed an estimated 230,000 people, making it one of the deadliest natural disasters in history. With the memory of that disaster fresh in his mind, Dr. Patrick Carnes,<sup>1</sup> an expert in the treatment of sexual addiction, said, “A tsunami is coming and the first waves are already here!”

He was referring to the growing number of men and women addicted to Internet pornography and to out-of-control sexual behavior. Marriages, careers, ministries, and lives are being lost to these at a staggering rate. And the rate at which this damage is occurring is increasing. Estimates from a few years ago put the number of sexually addicted adults at up to 6% of our population. This number is now thought to be increasing drastically. Not everyone who views Internet porn is addicted. However, the risks are huge, even for occasional viewing.

It is estimated that 40 million people visit a porn site once a month. Twenty-five percent of Internet searches are porn related and 35% of downloads are pornographic. Increasingly women are admitting this is a problem for them as well as adolescents, and even children.

Once thought to be only a male issue, recent studies indicate that Internet-related sexual activity is a problem for up to 40% of women. The nature of women’s involvement with sexually related material and behaviors is also changing. Women have become more open about the use of Internet porn, seeking sexual partners, and anonymous sex. Adolescents and college age men and women also struggle. In a 2009 study of 30,000 college students,<sup>2</sup> more than 10% of males reported spending over 20 hours a week viewing Internet porn. Sixty-two percent reported viewing some pornography weekly. As for children, a 2009 study of Internet searching habits<sup>3</sup> found that, for children eight and under, “porn” was the fourth most commonly searched term.



The impact of the use of porn in the family is devastating in a number of areas. Jennifer Schneider<sup>4</sup> has studied the impact of compulsive cybersex on the family. Some of the major impacts include:

- Traumatic responses on the part of the spouse to the discovery
- The discovery was a major factor in separation and divorce
- Lowered sex drives for both partners
- Lowered self-esteem for the partners
- A feeling of having been cheated on and betrayed
- Adverse effects on children, including
  - seeing women as objects
  - witnessing or involvement in parental conflicts
  - lacking needed attention as parents focus on their own pain
  - experiencing the breakup of the marriage.

In his book, *Men's Secret Wars*, Patrick Means<sup>5</sup> wrote about sexual addiction among church leaders. He reported that in a confidential survey, 64% of pastors and lay leaders acknowledged they struggled with sexual addiction.

Even this brief overview shows the use of pornography is a growing problem that impacts adults and children across all walks of life. Many wonder why this is happening in our society.

Some point to the "AAA Effect" of Internet pornography. With the Internet, pornography is "Affordable" and in the home free of charge, "Accessible" to anyone with an Internet connection, and "Anonymous." Add to this the fact that many home computers are not monitored or filtered and everyone within the home has the option of viewing porn if he or she decides to do so.

Consider also that this is an estimated \$18 billion a year industry. Internet pornographers have often been leaders in technological advancements. They have found increasingly effective ways to market, distribute, and provide ever more graphic material in high quality video. Internet speeds have increased

dramatically since the early days. More advancements are soon coming, and with that, pornographers are already developing the next wave of higher quality, more intense, more life-like cybersex experiences. The tsunami is coming!

There has also been an intentional effort to make the use of pornography appear more acceptable. Television shows include more scantily clad actors depicting increasingly graphic behaviors. The public image of politicians, entertainers, and athletes appears to be unaffected by their being discovered as having acted in sexually inappropriate ways. Combine these few forces, and the problem of Internet pornography continues to gain power. We have become an addicted society.

How do people become addicted? One common definition of addiction is continuing in a behavior despite negative consequences. That certainly relates to sex addiction. A more complex definition comes from the American Society of Addiction Medicine.<sup>6</sup> They state, "Addiction is a primary, chronic disease of brain reward, motivation, memory, and related circuitry." Addictions are further defined as both substance addictions (alcohol, drugs, etc.) and process addictions (food, gambling, sex, etc.). What is important to know about this is that the manner in which people become addicted is essentially the same, whether it is to a substance, or to a behavior. How this process works is both fascinating and frightening.

Many believe it to begin with the reward system in the brain. In short, what feels good is sought at the expense of what is healthy or appropriate. Through repetitive behavior, the brain becomes "addicted" and wants the pleasurable

experience more than it wants the healthy experience. Neurotransmitters are at the heart of communication within the brain. These chemicals, which carry signals across synaptic gaps, play a vital part in our thinking, our emotions, and our behavior. This becomes a problem from an addiction perspective because the brain remembers what was pleasurable. Neural pathways associated with thinking, feeling, and behaving are firmly estab-

**In a study of 30,000 college students, more than 10% of males reported spending over 20 hours a week viewing Internet porn. Sixty-two percent reported viewing some pornography weekly.**

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**In a confidential survey, 64% of pastors and lay leaders acknowledged they struggled with sexual addiction.**

lished through repetitive behavior. This is described as the “plasticity” of the brain and neuroplasticity shapes the brain around common behaviors. As a result, an image, being in familiar surroundings, emotional responses, and a host of other experiences of everyday life have the potential to trigger the reward circuits to seek a pleasurable experience once again. Once established, these patterns of responding to triggers lower impulse control and lessen the ability to make good decisions. The brain has now “learned” to get what it wants, another hit of dopamine that brings pleasure. The end result is that people make bad decisions. They pursue their addictive behavior knowing they shouldn’t and that it will potentially result in unwanted consequences. Thus, we arrive at the common definition of addiction—continuing in a behavior despite negative consequences. So what’s the path out of this?

Without a doubt God is good and capable of deliverance. I have seen His power at work in the lives of individuals. More often however, I have seen God work slowly to “renew the mind” (Romans 12:2). One way to understand this is to look again at the plasticity of the brain.

The same forces that are at work to form neural pathways around addictive behaviors can be used to create healthy pathways. These thoughts, emotions, and behaviors can be reinforced and a healthy, God-honoring way of life can be the normal and desired manner of living. This is fantastic news! The very God who knit us together in our mother’s womb (Psalm 139:13) continues to shape and fashion us in the image of His Son. Recovery from addiction is, in my opinion, not just a psychological or biological endeavor. It is a deeply spiritual endeavor in which God literally changes us at the cellular level. Recovery is rooted in this spiritual experience, but plays itself out in the whole person with the goal of truly loving God with our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30).

Without a doubt we live in challenging times. I am especially concerned for our youth who were born into the digital world. They are smart and technologically savvy. They are often incredibly resourceful in finding ways around filters and the best efforts of parents to protect them. But I am also aware that the roots of many of the problems of our society are found in the family itself. We all have a responsibility to be healthy and God-honoring in our living and especially in our relationships. Holiness, in living and in relationships, is also the best preparation for the coming tsunami. ■

*Timothy L. Barber, DMin, MA, LPCC-S, CSAT-S, NCC, a licensed professional clinical counselor, served in pastoral ministry for 22 years and is chair of the Department of Behavioral Sciences at Cincinnati Christian University.*

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2. Study quoted in an online article in *The Atlantic*, June 26, 2013, by Isaac Abel. Available at <http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2013/06/coming-out-as-a-porn-addict/277106/>.
3. Same as above.
4. Schneider, Jennifer P. “Effects of cybersex addiction on the family: Results of a survey.” *Sexual Addiction and Compulsivity*, vol. 7, pp.31-58, 2000.
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**MY NAME IS STEVE.** I come from a strong Christian family. I’ve been educated and ordained as a Christian minister. I have served on the mission field, sung in the choir, and worked in various ministries in the church. I am a husband and father of a good Christian family.... And I struggle with sex and relationship addictions.

*This testimony by a client of Tim Barber can be accessed online:*

**[www.godsrevivalist.com/bonus](http://www.godsrevivalist.com/bonus)**





# This is God's Story

by Melvin Adams, Jr.

I share this testimony knowing that God has always loved me with an unchanging love even while I was still in my sin. His ever persistent grace brought me to Him and His indescribable power has broken strongholds that many thought could only be managed. It is His perfect plan of salvation that I tell, not my own story. It was not willpower, accountability, a self-help program, behavioral technique, or group study that set me free. It was and is the Gospel of Jesus Christ which gives me the freedom that I know today.

I was first exposed to pornography around the age of nine. Some older boys in the neighborhood showed me a picture and it repulsed and intrigued me at the same time. Over the next several years I was exposed to porn in different ways and with varying degrees of intensity.

Perhaps the first time anyone became aware of my exposure was when I hid a housekeeping magazine in my room where I could take an occasional peek at a seductively posed woman in one of the ads. I still remember how my parents reacted when they found it. The shame I felt pushed me deep into a false self where I hid the true me. As the years passed, I tried everything in my power to break the chains that bound me, but nothing seemed to work for more than a short period of time. I began to feel hopeless.

I continued to struggle with a lack of purity even as I studied to be a pastor. When I got engaged to be married, I thought that if I could just make it to my wedding night I would be in the clear. I was so wrong. Primarily because of the influence of pornography, I entered marriage with preconceived ideas about sex, almost all of which were selfish. My wife knew a little bit about my struggles, but believed that I was past them. It didn't take long for me to disappoint her and make her biggest fears come to life. Even then I was still able to hide much of my sin from her.

I entered the ministry with a new determination to be pure and to help others. Yet, while God helped me do some good things, my lack of purity would ultimately re-occur, plunging me back into my secret life. No matter what boundaries or accountabilities were set up, I would find a way around them. No matter what events transpired in my life—going to the altar, moving to a new church, being caught, or even the birth of our son—I still found myself stuck in a revolving door of sinning, asking

forgiveness, abstaining briefly, then falling back into my sin. I resigned myself to never being truly victorious.

I have learned that my deepest problem was actually a desperate desire to be loved and appreciated. Whenever I felt depressed, or if someone seemed upset with me or didn't appreciate me as I expected, I turned to porn as a way of coping. The stress of keeping my double life a secret was extremely difficult. This pressure ultimately pushed me further into my stronghold.

My façade came crashing down on the night of December 20, 2011. My wife stumbled upon some of my darkest secrets and began to realize the breadth of my stronghold. She burst out in anguish with a question I'll never forget: "Who are you?" At that moment the reality of who I was began to dawn on me. At that moment I was unable to hide behind my mask of decency any longer.

I left the house and drove the few miles to the ocean to clear my head. I wanted to die because I thought my life was over. I had let down my wife, family, church, and myself. How could I face the humiliating truth and the consequences that were sure to follow? I had sowed the wind and was reaping the whirlwind. What was I to do?

Sitting at the beach, I was prompted to do something I had never really done before—confess my sin to my wife. I had always shared just enough to save my skin. This time it had to be different. I knew that I needed to bare my soul to my wife and reveal the whole truth about things she would never find unless I told her. I needed to stop the charade and instead expose the lie that I was living.

I drove the few miles back to where we were staying, resolved to confess everything no matter what the consequences turned out to be. At the end of my confession and prayer, my wife (p19) ➡



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# the Power of Higher Pursuits

by Dave Bowerman

I first met Melvin Adams a couple of days after he revealed his stronghold to his wife, Tamela. His confidence was badly shaken. He knew that pornography was wrong and was destroying his life. However, he didn't know how he was going to be able to stop viewing it because it was how he had managed his emotions for years.

Melvin took the time to tell me his story and then answered a few of my questions. He was brutally honest about what sin had done to his life. I remember thinking that this would serve him well as he undertook other right actions. I've met with men who withheld the truth and their dishonesty always thwarts the process.

Debilitating strongholds inevitably bring hopelessness, wherein we conclude there is no escape. I could feel Melvin's defeat. Nevertheless, I told him, "I know how you got here and I know the way out." The notion that he could become free must have been hard for him to believe. However, because I myself have experienced what I was going to tell him, I was confident and bold, which was good because it set the tone.

What I shared with Melvin that day was the same thing I share with every man who finds himself in such a stronghold—the message of **Higher Pursuits**. Seven lies had led him into his stronghold and seven pursuits would lead him out. I named the lies in order: moral relativism, denial, minimization, materialism, presumptuousness, self-sufficiency, and hopelessness. When men first hear them, these big words do not sound like they have much to do with their problem. However, I explain each one, identify its corresponding "higher pursuit" and show them how they fit. Here is a portion of what I say:

The first lie that you've bought into is **moral relativism**, the idea that you yourself define truth. It rejects an absolute moral authority who determines right from wrong. When you decide for yourself what is right, it ultimately leads to what is comfortable and convenient, rather than what is true. There's no way that you can do what you've been doing without giving yourself permission along the way.

Frankly, you have been living under your authority rather than God's. Now, more than ever, you need **The First Pursuit—Start with God** which calls you to build on *The Truth* rather than *your truth*.

The second lie you've embraced is **denial**, wherein you've somehow concluded that you didn't have the problem that brought you to this crisis moment. As a result, you've continued to do the wrong thing. And why not? For a long time, it's allowed you to put off dealing with this. **The Second Pursuit—Confess Sin** challenges you to acknowledge to a Christian brother or sister how you have sinned in order to interrupt your cycle of self-deception and stop you from going further down this road.

The third lie that has affected you is **minimization**, in which you've downplayed the effects of your bad behavior. It has kept you from grasping the damage in succumbing to impurity. Actually to those closest to you, this may be more offensive than denial because when you acknowledged your stronghold you did nothing about it. That allows others to view you as too calloused to care how pornography has affected you and them. **The Third Pursuit—See the Consequences** shows you, up close and personal, the destructive fallout and urges you to do something about it.



The fourth lie that has brought you down—and it's a biggie—is **materialism**, which asserts that the physical world is all there is. It has made you vulnerable to the lures of this world, and made the motto “Eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die” seem sensible. Sure, you have professed to know God, but in some ways you've been living as though He doesn't exist. **The Fourth Pursuit—Live in the Kingdom** takes you beyond the pull of material appetites and brings you into the fulfilling reality of God's rule. It causes you to see that sinful enticements are no substitute for a truly satisfying life. It transitions you out of the superficial life you've been living and brings you into the authentic presence of God.

The fifth lie that you have fallen for is **presumptuousness**, relying upon God's grace as an excuse to sin. It has kept you from making progress spiritually because you have continued to do whatever you want. You cannot use God's grace as a license to be your worst and then expect to achieve your best. **The Fifth Pursuit—Be Dead to Sin but Alive to God** sees to it that you go the whole way with Him and complete your transformation.

The sixth lie is **self-sufficiency**, wherein you have pridefully assumed that you know best how to move forward in your life. To be frank, you've surrendered only what you've wanted to give up. As a result, you still have this stronghold. **The Sixth Pursuit—Keep in Step with the Spirit** leads you to be flexible and flow with what God prompts you to do.

Finally, the seventh lie is **hopelessness**, and it has caused you to conclude that you will never overcome your problem. You have resigned yourself to the idea that you will die someday, still in your stronghold. **The Seventh Pursuit—Embrace Your Testimony** brings you into the powerful purpose of glorifying God with your life, even this part of your life in which you've never known victory. It enables you to “stare down temptation” boldly because you know to whom you belong. It causes you to look back and question, “This is what brought me down? Really? This?” It gives you a spirit of invincibility.

Men don't grasp this in a single conversation, and Melvin didn't either. It was a lot for him to take in,

## MEN AND PORNOGRAPHY

- Arterburn, Stephen; Stoeker, Fred; and Yorkey, Mike. *Every Man's Battle: Winning the War on Sexual Temptation One Victory at a Time*. WaterBrook Press, 2009.
- Gallagher, Steve. *At the Altar of Sexual Idolatry*. Pure Life Ministries, 2007.
- Gross, Craig, and Arterburn, Stephen. *Pure Eyes: A Man's Guide to Sexual Integrity*. Baker Books, 2010.
- Hart, Archibald D. *The Hart Report—The Sexual Man: Masculinity without Guilt*. Thomas Nelson, 1995.
- Henderson, Daniel. *Think Before You Look: Avoiding the Consequences of Secret Temptation*. Living Ink Books, 2005.
- Roberts, Ted. *Pure Desire: How One Man's Triumph Can Help Others Break Free From Sexual Temptation*. Regal, 2008.



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

given all that he was going through. However, as we continued to meet, the lies and pursuits became the subject of our time together. Right away they gave him something on which to focus. He didn't have to continue to pray vaguely, “Father, make me pure.” Now he could pray, “Father, show me the lies in my life and enable me to live in the higher pursuits.” He was no longer perplexed about how freedom comes. When we are willing to learn how strongholds are ultimately a spiritual problem, we discover freedom, power, and purpose that we never knew existed. Exchanging the lies we've clung to for the higher pursuits of God causes strongholds—including pornography and other forms of impurity—to disappear.

People who struggle greatly but finally surrender themselves to God become shining lights of what He can do. Their testimonies inspire hope in the rest of us that God can help us, too, regardless of our strongholds and struggles. ■

**FREEDOM FROM PORN.** Four years ago, God delivered me from a 36-year stronghold of pornography. He freed me through the truth of living under His rule. He brought me into His reality which re-prioritized everything in my mind. Should I step outside of it, I am capable of falling back into what once harmed me. However, I am now a changed person. For decades I looked at porn and now I don't.

*This additional article by Dave Bowerman can be accessed online:*

[www.godsrevivalist.com/bonus](http://www.godsrevivalist.com/bonus)



*Dave Bowerman is the author of Higher Pursuits and Fifty Days to Freedom. He lives in Port St. Lucie, FL, with his wife Joni. For more information, go to [www.higherpursuits.org](http://www.higherpursuits.org).*



## ALUMNA AND FACULTY MEMBER MINISTER IN HAITI

Faculty member Charlotte Frederick (BA '86) and alumna Katie (Kauffman) Rickenbach (BA '10) held the first "Seminar for Sunday School Teachers" for sixteen leaders from eight church districts across Haiti. These leaders now return to their districts to teach other Haitian church leaders unable to attend.

Activities included a time for learning new songs, prayer times, and the telling of a continued story

in order to retell it upon their return to their village. Participants created their own materials and practiced reteaching the concepts to one another.

The two-and-a-half-day seminar was planned by Dr. Steve Gibson, director of Pilgrim Holiness Mission. Very generous donations covered the travel expenses for all sixteen participants as well as the purchase of a projector and hundreds of dollars of



Charlotte (left) and Katie (center)

new children's church materials to be distributed from one district to another in a rotation cycle.

## AARON PROFITT NEW VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Since 2008, Aaron Profitt has worked with Dr. Ken Farmer to learn the various responsibilities associated with the Office of Academic Affairs. Together they planned experiences that would prepare Aaron as the next Vice President for Academic Affairs. As the last stage of this transition, Aaron chaired all the weekly academic committee meetings as well as the monthly general college faculty meetings in spring 2013. He formally assumed full VPAA responsibilities on June 1, 2013.

Aaron began work at GBS as Financial Aid Director and a teaching load split between the college and the high school. In 2005 he moved full time to teaching college and

# REVIVALIST FAMILY

*On these pages, we feature items about GBS alumni, significant events scheduled throughout the "Revivalist family," and brief news notes from across the Holiness Movement.*

## DEATHS



**Rosemarie Ruth Howerton (GBS '76), 61**, of Sophia, West Virginia, died Wednesday, May 22, 2013, following a short illness. Born May 5, 1952, in Michigan, Rosie was the daughter of the late Henry Jones and Myrtle Brown Jones of Covington, Kentucky, who graduated from GBS High School and attended GBS College in the late 1940s.

Rosie loved music and shared her talent of playing the piano for many years at her church in Crab Orchard, West Virginia. She also served as a missionary to the Native Americans of the Sioux Tribe in South

Dakota for three years. Rosie loved the Lord and enjoyed serving Him throughout her life.

Surviving Rosie are her husband of 35 years, Rex; two daughters, Rebecca Waggoner and Desta Griffin; four grandchildren, Dylan, Jillian, Taylor, and Rachel; her mother; three sisters, Carol Wright, Linda Scott, Lisa Gilbert; and two brothers, Henry Jr. and David. Many of her immediate family attended GBS.



**Paul David Reynolds, 84**, of Corydon, Indiana, went home to be with his Lord on July 22, 2013, after a lengthy struggle with cancer. He was born to David W. and Ruth E. Fitch Reynolds on August 21, 1928, in Oshkosh, Nebraska. He received a ThB from Immanuel Missionary College and a MEd from Xavier University.

Paul Reynolds served in ministry a total of 55 years. His ministry included pastoring for twenty years in



chairing the General Studies Division. He has been very active in various committees and the college's accreditation processes. Aaron will also maintain his work as Director of Institutional Research. He is a PhD candidate in educational studies at the University of Cincinnati, having completed his dissertation, which focuses on accountability and transparency for Bible colleges. ■



Ken Farmer and Aaron Proffitt



Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. Paul, along with his first wife Wilma, who preceded him in death in 1983, were missionaries to Africa for about 10 years. Paul also taught at Immanuel Missionary College, Salem Bible College, and God's Bible High School, where he was high school principal for 16 years, during which time he also supervised 13 city missions as an outreach of the college department. His second wife, Leota (Benninger), also preceded him in death (1999).

Paul is survived by his wife, Mary Evelyn (Coe); his daughter, Sharon Martin of Accra, Ghana; son, Dale of Frankfort, Indiana; and daughter, Esther Burton of Vinton, Virginia; 10 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were at Beanblossom-Cesar Funeral Home in Corydon, Indiana, with the Rev. Mark Lemon and the Rev. William Cope officiating. Interment was at the Greenlawn Cemetery in Frankfort, Indiana.

## HITHER AND THITHER

**Adam Buckler (GBS ADEP 2010-present)** has been appointed president of Union Bible College and Academy, Westfield, Indiana.

**Ron Cook (BA '00)** will have his story dramatized on the radio broadcast "Unshackled!" during the weeks of October 6th and 13th. The first part is regarding his salvation, and the second is about his life after salvation, including his battle with Hodgkin's lymphoma. After the programs air, they are available from the archives at [www.unshackled.org](http://www.unshackled.org).

**Dr. Mark Eckart (BRE '83)** has been elected to another four-year term as District Superintendent of the Indiana South District of The Wesleyan Church. He served on the GBS staff from 1984-97.

**Steve Elsey (BRE '82)** has been appointed Director of World Missions for the Church of God (Holiness). Steve served as pastor for many years and had been on the World Missions Board since 2006.

**Dr. Robert England (ThB '63)** is retiring from the presidency of Allegheny Wesleyan College, a position he has held since 2002. He intends to relocate to the greater Cincinnati area and be available as an evangelist.

**Deron Fourman (BRE '90)** was appointed mission treasurer for the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches. Deron also pastored in Port Clinton, OH.

**Dr. John Neihof**, 23-year member of the administrative team at Kentucky Mountain Bible College, accepted the appointment of president of Wesley Biblical Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi, on July 1, 2013. A number of GBS alumni have received their graduate degrees from WBS. Additionally, through ADEP, GBS partners with WBS each semester to offer a course for dual credit (undergraduate and graduate).

**Marc Sankey (BA '94)** is now serving as vice president for Evangelistic Faith Missions.

**Dr. Mark Smith**, president of Ohio Christian University and former GBS board member has been elected as board chair of the Association for Biblical Higher Education, a national accrediting agency that accredits many Bible colleges and seminaries.

**Andrew (BA '05) and Morgan (Litchfield) (2008-09) Street** are going to India as missionaries commissioned by Evangelistic Faith Missions. They report that the fastest growing church in India is the Evangelical Church with 3,300 churches. The average Sunday attendance is half a million.

**Amy Weddle (BA '12)** has accepted a teaching position in the Hope Evangelical Bible Academy at Jalapa, Guatemala. ■

## Dear Phil

### WHAT IS SEX?

Dear Phil,

*In terms of physical affection in a dating or engagement relationship prior to marriage, where is the line? Is everything short of sex okay, and what is sex? —M.S.*

Dear M.S.,

Let me start with your last question. Sex is...

**God-designed.** God created human sexual capacity and desire. He commanded Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply (Gen. 1:28). Sexual union within marriage was God's idea, not man's (Gen. 2:24).

**Good.** God called all of His creation "very good" (Gen. 1:31). Any idea that sex is inherently tainted or sinful contradicts God's declaration and impugns His character.

**Spiritual.** Paul teaches us that sexual union is more than the uniting of two bodies. It is also a union of spirits. A believer who unites himself with a prostitute is also uniting Christ with the prostitute, since we are members of Christ's body (1 Cor. 6:15-17). If fornication involves spiritual union, how much more must sex within Christian marriage be a spiritual union.

**Symbolic.** The sexual union in marriage is part of what symbolizes Christ's union with the Church. As a candle may symbolize the sun, so sexual union within marriage symbolizes, in part, the far greater and more glorious union that Christ has with his Bride (Eph. 5:31-32).

**Sacred.** First, because God set it apart for enjoyment within heterosexual, monogamous marriage alone (Gen. 2:24). Second, because, in its union of distinct persons who are committed to the other in self-giving love, it reflects the union of the Trinity. Third, because God declares sexual union within marriage "honorable" and "undefiled" (Heb. 13:4).

Now for your first question. Rather than give a list of illicit behaviors beyond Scripture's prohibition of fornication (1 Thess. 4:3), I'm going to highlight how loving God and others must guide your choices in five areas:

**1. Motives.** Scripture explicitly forbids conduct motivated by passionate lust or burning desire (1 Thess. 4:5; Col. 3:5). Rather, all interaction with the opposite sex, indeed everything we do, is to please God (2 Cor. 5:9) and display God's uniquely excellent character, e.g., His purity, righteousness, and love (1 Cor. 6:20; 10:31). Ask yourself, "Does this spring from burning passion or from a desire to glorify God?" "Is this what's in the long-term, best interest of the other person?" Avoid passion-driven behavior. Pursue transparently God-pleasing behavior.

**2. Flesh.** Love for God gives no opportunity for our crucified flesh to fulfill its desires but seeks to be clothed with the Lord Jesus (Rom. 13:14; Gal. 5:24). Most people give almost no thought to what creates opportunities for their flesh to fulfill its desires. This explains why they often engage in expressions of affection that lead them to violate their consciences or into outright sin. Ask yourself, "Is this clothing myself with Jesus' attitude and actions? Does this stir up sexual desire or will it help me/us avoid making opportunity for the flesh?" Avoid what appeals to the flesh. Pursue what contributes to Christlikeness.

**3. Thoughts.** Sex is both a mental activity and a physical activity. Jesus says that looking at a woman with the intent to think about having her sexually constitutes adultery (Matt. 5:28). Choosing to think about sexual activity with one to whom you are not married is sin. Ask yourself, "Could I act out what I'm thinking without sin?" If not, it's wrong. Avoid what leads to lustful thoughts. Pursue purity of heart and thought (Phil. 4:8; 2 Tim. 2:22).

**4. Conscience.** "Whatever is not of faith is sin" (Rom. 14:23). That means if your conscience isn't clear about it, it is wrong to do it. If you love others, then you will care as much or more about their consciences as you do your own. When in doubt, don't. Keep your conscience clear.

**5. Ownership.** Our bodies belong not to us but to Christ (1 Cor. 6:19), and God promises vengeance upon those who defraud others (1 Thess. 4:6). If you wouldn't want someone else doing to your future spouse what you're contemplating doing, then don't do it (Luke 6:31).

Apply these principles, and you'll have no cause for regret. ■

Blessings,  
Philip

*A. Philip Brown II is a member of the faculty in the Division of Ministerial Education at God's Bible School and College.*





## CHRISTIANS ACTIVE IN EGYPTIAN UPRISING

[Religion Today] Egyptian armed forces ousted President Mohammed Morsi and replaced him with a temporary civilian government in response to huge demonstrations and a petition boasting the signatures of 22 million demanding his removal. Some are referring to this as a “democratic coup.” Coptic Christians and the other Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox communities played a significant role in raising the masses. Some of these marginalized groups will likely play a role in the political movements going forward. However, the fact that the majority of the protesters were Muslim proves that Egyptian people at large are against both Islamism and military dictatorship. More recently protests and street battles, mostly between the Muslim Brotherhood and the Egyptian army have been deadly. In addition to over 600 being killed, over 60 Christian churches have been attacked.

## EXODUS INTERNATIONAL SHUTS DOWN

Alan Chambers, president of Exodus International—an organization once dedicated to helping homosexuals leave that lifestyle—announced that it was shutting down. Chambers, who now rejects the idea that homosexuals can change their orientation through Christ, apologized to the gay community.

Exodus International was founded 37 years ago and claimed 260 member ministries. Some report that the reason for the closure was that the affiliates who believed that homosexuals could be changed through Jesus Christ were leaving.

As Exodus shuts down, a new organization makes its debut—Restored Hope Network, under different leadership and reportedly Christ-centered.

## MARRIAGE KEEPS KIDS OUT OF POVERTY

[RT] In 1965, the U.S. Department of Labor produced a report arguing that “the decline of the Black nuclear family would significantly impede Blacks’ progress toward economic and social equality.” The document stirred heated controversy. This year, The Urban Institute revisited the subject. It again found that increasing single-parent households leads to poverty—but now the percentage of Black children born to unmarried mothers is three times higher than it was in the 1960s.

Regardless of race, single-parent families are far more likely to live in poverty than two-parent families: 40% compared to just 8%. The statistics that alarmed in the 1960s have only grown worse, for Blacks, Whites, and Hispanics. Things are bad, but they don’t have to stay that way. Marriage, which is available to everyone, drops the probability of child poverty by 82%. ■



## student focus

When the catastrophic earthquake hit Haiti on January 12, 2010, **JEEMPS PIERRE** was in a classroom two hours away from home. He couldn’t find a taxi to go home—the roads impassable with the debris of fallen houses, buildings, and bodies of people of all ages—so he walked the whole way that night, surrounded by tragedy and destruction on every side. Such a terrible scene was the start of Jeemps’ transition to GBSC. In a few short seconds, Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti, was almost completely destroyed. The Bible college where he was studying closed for the year, and Jeemps turned to GBSC to continue his studies.

Jeemps grew up in the town of Grande Riviere Du Nord in a family of little financial means. As his parents struggled to pay for his schooling, Jeemps studied hard, knowing his education might someday ease their suffering. Today, as he studies in the Ministerial Division, his heart still beats for Haiti. He dreams of giving sight to the blind with the gospel, and building churches, schools, and orphanages for the broken. ■

**Seventy-five percent of our students receive some form of financial aid which enables them to attend GBSC. If you would like to support Jeemps or a student like him, you may send a gift to:**

**Student Fund  
God’s Bible School and College  
1810 Young Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202**

**or give online anytime at  
[www.gbs.edu/givenow](http://www.gbs.edu/givenow)**

# GO & SIN No More

## Female Sex and Love Addiction

by Jane G. Edlmann



Addiction to sexually compulsive behaviors is often seen as a “male” problem in our culture; however, 40 to 50 percent of those who struggle with sex addiction are women—women who often feel alone, isolated, and filled with shame.

How sex and love addiction presents itself in women is different than in men. Male sex addicts see women as sex objects to be used for sexual gratification where there is little to no emotional involvement. Female sex and love addiction (FSLA) is best described as an intimacy disorder—a false substitute for being fully known, accepted, and loved which includes pathological mood-altering sexual experiences.

A woman who is desperately seeking intimacy or acceptance may be led into unhealthy ways of meeting these genuine needs, e.g., to the Internet where she may begin to view Internet pornography. She might enter Internet chat rooms and engage in cybersex which masquerades as genuine relationship. She may then actually connect with potential sex partners by way of telephone conversations or texting, “hooking up” in person for elicited sexual encounters. Not only is her relationship with herself, her family, and friends impacted negatively; but for a woman of faith, she feels tragically cut off from God believing that her sexual acting out leaves her beyond His willingness to forgive her.

Rather than finding the answers to basic human needs in the context of healthy relationships with God, self, and others, the addict is swept up in an alternate reality where the attraction to objects of fantasy replace healthy attachment which can lead to authentic relational intimacy. Human sexual expression was never intended to be used as a replacement for emotional connectedness but rather as the culmination of intimacy on all other levels—spiritual, emotional, psychological, and physical.

Sex addiction does not discriminate. It can impact any person whether male or female; single or mar-

ried; even clergy or laity. It is a complicated problem impacting the body, mind, and spirit. Therefore, treatment of the whole person is necessary as sex addiction is a complicated cycle and not merely a “moral” failure. When treated holistically, an individual’s chances of successful “sobriety” and extended recovery will increase.

The good news is that there is help available. An increasing awareness of the magnitude of this problem, inside and outside the Church, has birthed a new generation of professionals who specialize in the unique aspects of sexual addiction and are committed to treating the roots of this disease, not simply its symptoms.

As women in the Church, oftentimes we find ourselves caught between our foundations of faith and the struggles of living in an ever sexually-saturated culture. Desiring to please the Lord in modesty of dress, simplicity of lifestyle, and purity in our sexuality, we find ourselves conflicted by a yearning to be loved, a search for true intimacy, or, perhaps, even damaged by sins committed against us early in life. Our deep desire to be known, accepted, and affirmed has been hijacked by low self-esteem, shame, or misconceptions of what being loved truly means. If you, or someone you love, struggles with unhealthy sexually compulsive behaviors, let the compassion that Jesus showed the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11) be your guide and throw “no stones.” Be gentle and compassionate toward yourself or your struggling sister and seek the help you need for true healing and recovery! ■

*Jane G. Edlmann, MA, PC-CR, is a licensed professional counselor who works for the Counseling Alliance. She has comprehensive experience with mood and anxiety disorders, including depression, anxiety and obsessive compulsive disorder, sexual addictions and relapse prevention, trauma victims, and resolution of grief and loss.*



## WHEN YOUR WORLD

# COLLAPSES

### Letter to Sex Addiction:

I hate you. How dare you rob me of my dreams, innocence, purity, trust, love, partner, and safety! I did not deserve this. I made intentional choices to resist temptation and have integrity and honesty so that I could live my dreams and lift up my husband and children in love. And then you step in and rip that all away.

You are the evil work of Satan himself—you seduced my husband—and slithered your way in through the cracks. I only hope and pray that my husband can be the man I loved and promised my life to, and that he can truly see you for the blood-sucking, empty pit that you are. Because YOU are the lie, YOU are the bondage.

My husband deserves to know true joy, freedom, and love. I deserve a whole, committed, faithful, and healthy husband. My children deserve a father who loves and honors their mother and demonstrates to them true commitment, responsibility, and how to be a leader of a home and good man to his wife and family.

GET OUT! LEAVE US! I know your secrets now—how you feed on the cracks and crevices of shame and fear and slowly seep in to devour. You are NOT welcome!

From *Letter to Addiction*, written by the spouse of a sex addict. Edited and used with permission.

## The Trauma of Sexual Addiction on the Spouse

by Rebecca Miller

Imagine in a moment of time that your reality—or what you thought was real—no longer exists...and what does now exist is terrifying. Your safe place is now dangerous. Your rock is now quicksand. Your lover is now the enemy—the person you turned to for comfort is now the source of your greatest pain. You realize your world has collapsed and will never be the same. You have just discovered your spouse is a sex addict.

Spouses just making this discovery describe their feelings of shock, fear, pain, isolation, anger, confusion, and guilt and may experience physical ailments. Everyday, ordinary tasks may become overwhelming. Spiritual symptoms may also be experienced, including anger with God, feelings of abandonment by God, separation from spiritual community, and loss of interest in prayer or meditation.

Individuals respond very differently to the trauma of betrayal; however, there are several universal needs that are cornerstones in the process of recovering from sexual betrayal—the need to re-establish safety, the need to process emotions and grief, and the need (eventually) to forgive.

The **need to re-establish safety** is of primary focus—creating a refuge to retreat to when feeling distraught, overwhelmed, or confused is essential in moving from crisis to stability. This refuge is a place to become grounded in reality—a reality that has been created by the spouse, not the addict. Essentials in establishing a refuge are support, affirmation, and identifying goals for recovery. Support may include spiritual care, journaling, nurturing activities, and identifying safe people. Affirmation includes messages of encouragement, poetry, songs, scripture, or





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words to connect to when triggered. Goals for recovery may include attending therapy (with a counselor trained in sex addiction and trauma, if possible), evaluation to determine if medication is an option if struggling with anxiety or depression, and engaging in recovery work.

A critical component of establishing safety is identifying and enforcing boundaries—physical and sexual, emotional, and non-negotiable. Non-negotiable boundaries are limits that are necessary to convey the message that active addiction behavior will not be tolerated and that a process for authentic recovery must be in place. A possible course of action for boundary violations must be identified.

Boundary setting also means taking responsibility for one's own thoughts, emotions, and behaviors. For the spouse of a sex addict, boundaries must be set around one's own dysfunctional behaviors such as shaming, punishing, interrogating, snooping, or numbing feelings with harmful activities. Boundaries are essential to keep these from bleeding into relationships and increasing emotional vulnerability. Recognizing destructive reactions and replacing them with positive choices are essential to healing.

Another focus in recovery for the spouse is the **need to process the pain and grieve the loss**. The loss faced by the spouse is pervasive and causes unspeakable pain—the loss of dreams, memories, relationships, friendships, and at times physical health, healthy sexuality, and perhaps even the marriage. Emotional processing and grief work is not easy but is necessary. Grief work is best done with supportive, safe people such as a therapist, close friends, or a support group.

The act of **choosing to forgive is essential** for reclaiming emotional health and self-confidence. Early on in recovery, forgiveness may seem impossible. It is important to remember that forgiveness is not about forgetting, excusing the behavior, or a way to escape consequences, and forgiveness does not automatically mean reconciliation. The process of forgiveness unfolds over time and may in fact take years. When rushed, forgiveness is premature, and often harbors hidden anger. However, finally being able to release the “right” to revenge is freeing as it means that we are no longer controlled by the bitterness and resentment.

Given the depth of trauma to the spouse caused by the impact of sexual addiction, one might ask, “Is healing possible?” Yes, healing is possible. It is not easy; it takes incredible strength and courage to begin to believe “this wasn’t about me.” To regain self-respect and dignity. To stop defining one’s self as a victim of another person’s addiction. To begin to make meaning out of the suffering by comforting others and passing on what was learned. To believe God is still trustworthy and to believe when He whispers “You are good enough.” ■

*Rebecca Miller, MA, LPCC, is a licensed professional clinical counselor and a certified sexual addiction therapist candidate. She attended God’s Bible School 1975-77, and Steve, her husband of 35 years, attended 1975-76. She has been with the GBS Counseling Center since its beginning in 2009 and with the Counseling Alliance since 2000.*



## Jessica's Story

MY FIRST EXPOSURE TO PORNOGRAPHY was when I was thirteen. I was actually online researching a school project. I was looking through videos on an “educational video” website, when the title of one video caught my eye. The preview thumbnail was dark and blurry. I clicked. That 3 minutes 23 seconds is forever etched in my mind. I gave my heart to pornography that day, and it would be years before I would have my heart back.

For a while, porn was a hobby. Then it became a habit. Within a year or two of my first exposure, it was an addiction. It had become the most important thing in my life. It had become my identity. I knew it was destroying me.

I tried to beat it on my own. I printed off pictures and lit them on fire. It wasn't that I didn't want help. I had no idea where to get it. I looked for help online, but resources out there were for men. My church did not talk about sex. My family did not talk about sex. To whom could I turn? Things looked hopeless.

I gave up. I figured there must be something intrinsically wrong with me. On top of being a porn addict, I felt I must have been bisexual, even though I did not want to be. I gave up on trying to fight, and, at the age of seventeen, began looking into joining the adult industry. I was done playing the game, done pretending like my life was OK. There was no way God could really love somebody like me. He was too late. He had tried to rescue me too late. I had made my choices, and this was the only road left for me, whether I liked it or not.

A year later, one sentence alone opened the door for freedom. The Dean of Women at the college I was attending stood in front of the entire female student body and said, “We know some of you struggle with pornography and masturbation, and we want to help you.”

Those were words I had been dying to hear for years. I needed to know that I was not hopeless. I needed to know that God could still rescue me, and He did.

Freedom from lust is more than just not doing it anymore. Pornography and lust have such deep and underlying causes and consequences. Thoughts need to be silenced; opinions need to be changed; lies need to die. The damage lust inflicts on a woman's heart goes far beyond what meets the eyes, but not beyond the reaches of grace.

That's the story I am blessed to share with others—a story of a grace that reaches under us, no matter how far we've fallen, and lifts us back up. It would have been enough for God to free me from sin. If He had simply stooped down long enough to cut those chains, I would have forever been grateful. Grace goes beyond that. Grace cuts the chains, removes the shackles, unlocks the door, and gives you new eyes to see, new legs to walk, and a new heart to love. That is grace, and it is available to everyone—yes, even the woman addicted to pornography. ■

*Jessica Harris* is a speaker and writer. Her blog, *Beggar's Daughter*, highlights issues specific to purity, addiction, and healing ([beggarsdaughter.com](http://beggarsdaughter.com)). She is also a guest contributor for *Covenant Eyes* and *The Porn Effect*.

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### GENERAL INTEREST WEBSITES

- Care for Pastors* (Ron Cook). [www.careforpastors.org](http://www.careforpastors.org)
- Covenant Eyes* (free resources). [www.covenanteyes.com](http://www.covenanteyes.com)
- Dark Side of Technology* (Brad Huddleston). <http://darksideoftechnology.com>
- Higher Pursuits* (Dave Bowerman). <http://higherpursuits.org>
- Morality In Media: Porn Harms*. <http://pornharms.com>
- Pure Desire Ministries International*. [www.puredesire.org](http://www.puredesire.org)
- Pure Hope*. <http://purehope.net>
- Pure Life Ministries* (Steve Gallagher). [www.purelifeministries.org](http://www.purelifeministries.org)
- XXXchurch.com*. [www.xxxchurch.com](http://www.xxxchurch.com)

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



# Help! My Husband Is Addicted To Pornography

by Ron Cook

It happens innocently. You pick up your husband's iPad, smart phone, or turn on his computer to send a message and out of curiosity check the history and find it's all erased, or you are blocked by a password. Even worse, you see the history and you can't believe what you see. The flood of sickening emotions is overwhelming. "Who is this person?" "How could they do this?" "Do they love me?" "Do I love them?" "Are our children safe?" Those and many other questions seem to be more than your mind can process.

"What do I do?" Turn the device off and pretend that it never happened? No, denial is not the answer as much as you wish for this just to go away. Denial will not fix the problem. Do you pack your bags and leave? Maybe so, but not yet. You must confront your husband first. However, in most cases confrontation should not happen immediately. You need to give yourself time to get your emotions under control. So stop and ask God to give you the ability to filter all your thoughts, feelings, and emotions through truth.

Pray that this truth will bring a heart of confession and repentance from your husband, understanding that this may not be the immediate response. Be prepared for denial. This may be where you pack your bags and prepare to leave. Denial cannot be an acceptable response. Anger spews out, so don't be surprised if you hear, "What right do you have to go into my private information?" "Who do you think you are anyway?" Remind him you are his wife and there should be no secrets.

At this point, let me say to both spouses, be glad the secret has been exposed. Secrets unexposed demand more secrets—deeper and darker secrets that become more controlling, demanding, and addictive. A secret that has been exposed begins to lose its power and influence.

As difficult as the denial and anger are to deal with, the issue of blame is even more challenging to work through. You must first deal with the lie of personal blame—"If I were a better wife..." "If I had not said no to his sexual advances..." "If I had done what he wanted none of this would be happening." "I am to blame." The truth of the matter is that you are not responsible for the sinful choices and decisions your husband has made. Regardless of the circumstances, we all are responsible for our personal sins.

If you will wrap your heart and mind around this truth, it will result in great freedom and preparation for what might happen next. Your husband may pull the "blame card," and attempt to convince you that if you had only.... Don't allow this lie to get you off track.

Don't allow your husband to talk you into believing he can take care of this on his own. Maybe he could, but there is far too much at stake to risk. Insist on trusted outside counsel and accountability. Your husband must be committed to absolute honesty and this may be very difficult if you assume the sole responsibility of accountability. Out of a desire to protect and not hurt you, he may not share his ongoing challenges. The outside counsel may come with a cost. But how can you put a price on the health and well-being of your marriage? Whatever the cost in dollars and hard work, make the commitment to pay the price.

Recovery, reconciliation, and restoration of what once was or what should have been may be a long time in coming, but don't lose hope! Life, marriage, and ministry may forever be changed, but it may be changed for the better. God specializes in taking what the enemy meant for our destruction and turning it into good for us and even for others. We just have to allow Him to do His work. ■

*Ron Cook and his wife Rodetta have been married 36 years. Ron ministers to pastors and Rodetta to pastors' wives through "Care for Pastors" which includes mentoring, counseling, and conferences. For more information, go to [www.careforpastors.org](http://www.careforpastors.org).*



# ALUMNI news

## KEITH AND SHARON WAGGONER

It is my privilege to recommend the ministries of alumni Keith and Sharon Waggoner. Keith is a member of the GBS Board of Trustees. Sharon is an accomplished musician and vocalist who just recently released an accordion and piano recording project. During her years at GBS, she traveled in the ladies' trio, a public relations group that frequently toured with Rev. Millard Downing. Keith and Sharon have served as song evangelists and music ministers over the past 30 years with several recording projects to their credit. Keith recently retired as a senior manager with Caterpillar Inc. and is experienced in strategic planning and organizational effectiveness. Keith and Sharon are now available for concerts, weekend meetings, and organization planning facilitation. You may contact them at (309)265-5000 or visit their website at [www.WaggonerMinistries.com](http://www.WaggonerMinistries.com). —Michael Avery, GBS president

## GOD'S STORY continued

➡(p6) looked at me and spoke these words: "I forgive you." God used my wife's response to my sin to reveal His grace and love to me in a way that I had never understood before. This began the healing process in our marriage!

Over the next few days and weeks I confessed to my longtime accountability partner, a few trusted individuals, and my church board. Each confession was met with receptive hearts. I found the statement, "the extent of my confession determines the extent of my forgiveness," to be true in my life. By coming clean with the proper spirit, in the proper setting, to the proper people, God gave me an assurance that my confession was genuine and that I was forgiven.

Though it seemed like everything in my life was falling apart, what was really happening was God was in the process of putting me back together. In fact, God gave me assurance that He was at work when I read "Therefore with loving kindness I have drawn you. Again I will build you, and you shall be rebuilt" (Jeremiah 31:4a).

I resigned my position as pastor and moved to Florida and began the hard work of restoring trust in my marriage. My wife and I looked for counselors and found "Care for Pastors" and Ron Cook. Ron helped me to dismantle systematically many of the lies that I had believed about God. The week of intensive counseling sessions proved to be difficult but as my self-made religion was exposed, I began to see it as a cheap substitute for the true God of scripture.

Over the next few weeks and months I began to find freedom in multiple areas as I challenged my long held beliefs with the truth of God's Word. As I began to view my strongholds and insecurities through the lens of God's truth, they began to crumble. No more striving for approval. No more guilt for failing to meet expectations. No more crushing disappointment from perceived rejections. No more running to porn to feel better.

My story is really a story of God's deliverance from a stronghold that was seemingly unconquerable—deliverance through the power of a God who is bigger than my porn problem! ■

*Melvin Adams, Jr. is the Director of Development for Higher Pursuits Ministries. He lives in Hobe Sound, Florida, with his wife Tamela.*

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SEPTEMBER 2013



# PORNOGRAPHY'S IMPACT ON CHILDREN'S SEXUAL DEVELOPMENT

by Cordelia Anderson

Pornography is a common source of sex education for children and teens in the United States today. Studies vary, but on average the majority of both boys and girls have seen pornography by age 12—about one third by age 10. As one study of mainstream porn videos clearly demonstrated, the vast majority of 'sexual' acts show violence and degradation. Positive sexual behaviors are shown in less than 10% of the scenes. Images often include body punishing sex acts, particularly toward females. Sexualized references to teens and children are not uncommon.



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While many are concerned about all sexually explicit materials—this alone is not what causes harm. What is increasingly linked to various kinds of harm are exploitive materials—those that show violent language and degradation of women as arousing and sexy. The harm includes:

- Girls identifying themselves primarily as sexual objects and as “things” for the sexual use of boys.
- Boys believing porn shows how they should treat girls and that girls want to be treated that way.
- Possibly being aroused by acts of violence they see in the images.
- Lack of access to healthy images, messages, and information.
- Having difficulty getting the memories of images out of their minds.
- Getting information/images that are too much for their age and stage of development.
- Such easy access to porn that it seems as if it is okay. For example, porn can pop up accidentally even in unrelated Google searches.

Yesterday’s porn is today’s mainstream media and today’s mainstream media too often shows children as sexual objects for adult interests. It can feel overwhelming to give children healthy messages with such unhealthy images and messages in everyday advertising, TV, music, and the Internet. We know prevention involves making the healthy choice the easy choice and yet so much of what is in pornography and “pornified culture” normalizes unhealthy, toxic choices and arousal.

Caring adults need to consider the reality that we have all been affected. We have been made to feel that, in order not to appear uncomfortable with sexuality, we have to accept pornography as normal and beyond question. However, when we are silent, we risk approving pornography as part of our children’s and teens’ understanding of sexuality.

Things you can do:

- Talk about pornography and take opportunities for discussion when you and your children witness harmful messaging together. Discuss the differences between pornified images and those that are realistic, respectful, and not degrading or abusive.
- Be aware of how the content, reach, and messages have changed—your first experiences with pornography were likely quite different than that of your children’s, in part due to the Internet.
- Know that Internet filters and monitors, although helpful, cannot protect your child from the attitudes, language, and actions of friends and others who are exposed to pornography.
- Help your boys and girls to speak up when they are offended or don’t want to look or to act like what they have seen. Adults and youth all need to find ways to respond to these social pressures.
- Recognize that those who profit from this want it viewed as simply sex. We need to name it as harm, and not buy the lies!
- Allow love, respect, and intimacy to be our response to “pornified culture.”

It is no small challenge to raise sexually healthy boys and girls, but it is possible. We all have a right to demand and create a different environment for our children. ■

**Cordelia Anderson** is President of Sensibilities Prevention Services, Minneapolis, MN. This article first appeared in the 24th edition of *The Vermont Parents’ Home Companion*, 2013, and is used by permission of the author.

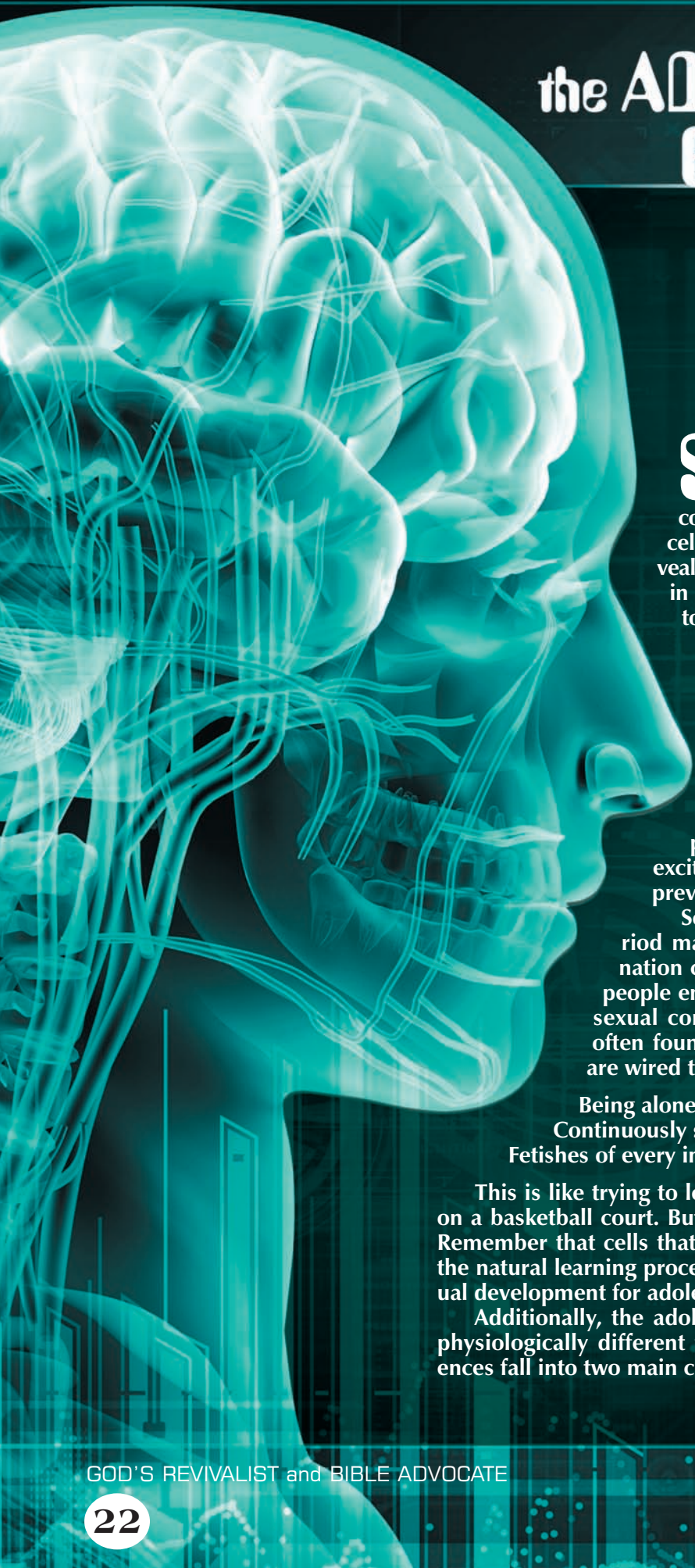
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### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES





# the ADOLESCENT BRAIN and SEXUAL CONDITIONING

by Gary Wilson

**S**exual conditioning naturally occurs during adolescence when the brain is primed to learn all about reproduction. The neurobiology of sexual conditioning revolves around a crucial detail: nerve cells that fire together wire together. Research is revealing that it's surprisingly easy to condition sexuality in young mammals. And the experience of many of today's young porn users is affirming this research.

If staring at a computer is the answer to the question "So this is how you do it?" early sexual conditioning can help explain why young guys with porn-induced erectile dysfunction (ED) often need longer to recover than the older guys. The "wiring together" for them happens in this critical formative period. Normal Doidge explains what is going on: "Because plasticity is competitive, the brain maps for new, exciting images increased at the expense of what had previously attracted them."<sup>1</sup>

So the content exposed to during this critical period makes the difference. Today a 13-year-old's imagination can be replaced by hard-core streaming videos of people engaged in all sorts of crazy stuff. Instead of wiring sexual conditioning to real people, today's adolescent is often found in front of a screen. As a result, brain circuits are wired to:

- Being alone in his/her room • Voyeurism
- Continuously searching and seeking • Shock and surprise
- Fetishes of every imaginable and unimaginable type

This is like trying to learn how to play football by shooting free throws on a basketball court. But it's more than just training for the wrong sport. Remember that cells that fire together wire together. Using porn subverts the natural learning processes so important at this very critical time of sexual development for adolescents of both sexes.

Additionally, the adolescent brain is anatomically, biochemically, and physiologically different from a child's or an adult's brain. Those differences fall into two main categories.



The first is an **imbalance of power between the thrill seeking parts of the brain and the more rational parts.** During adolescence, a temporary imbalance develops. The thrill seeking part of the brain is in overdrive—that's the Reward Circuit. At the same time the "Let's give this some thought" part of the brain is still under construction: In fact, those frontal lobes won't reach full maturity until about age 25.

The adolescent reward circuit produces much stronger "Go for it" signals because the teen brain secretes far more dopamine than does an adult brain. Also, the brain's sensitivity to dopamine and other exciting neurochemicals is significantly higher. It peaks around age 15. This combination of more dopamine and more dopamine receptors sends novelty-seeking skyrocketing.

Another outcome is that adolescents are far more vulnerable to addictions than adults. Teens also have weaker stop signals. Unfortunately, the sex hormones that initiate teen sensitivity to thrills do nothing to speed up development of the frontal lobe which controls impulses, inhibits inappropriate behavior, and weighs the consequences of one's actions. A teen brain is like a car with a Ferrari engine and Ford Pinto brakes in that urges from the high-powered reward circuit can overwhelm the underdeveloped frontal lobe. Teens often base their choices on emotional impulses, and have trouble perceiving the consequences of "going for it."

The second major feature of the adolescent brain is an **explosion of new nerve connections during early adolescence**, which is followed by rapid pruning and reorganization.

So, the brain begins shrinking after age 11—but its functions gradually become more orderly and efficient. This process allows a teen to learn all about his environment, and then wire in important new experiences and memories. Top adolescent brain expert, Jay Giedd, describes this process as the "use it or lose it" principle.

Those cells and connections that are used will survive and flourish. Those cells and connections that are not used will wither and die. So if a teen is doing music or sports or academics, those are the

cells and connections that will be hard-wired. If they're lying on the couch or playing video games or watching MTV, those are the cells and connections that are going to survive."<sup>2</sup>

There is no doubt that the cells and connections for sexuality will survive and flourish during adolescence.

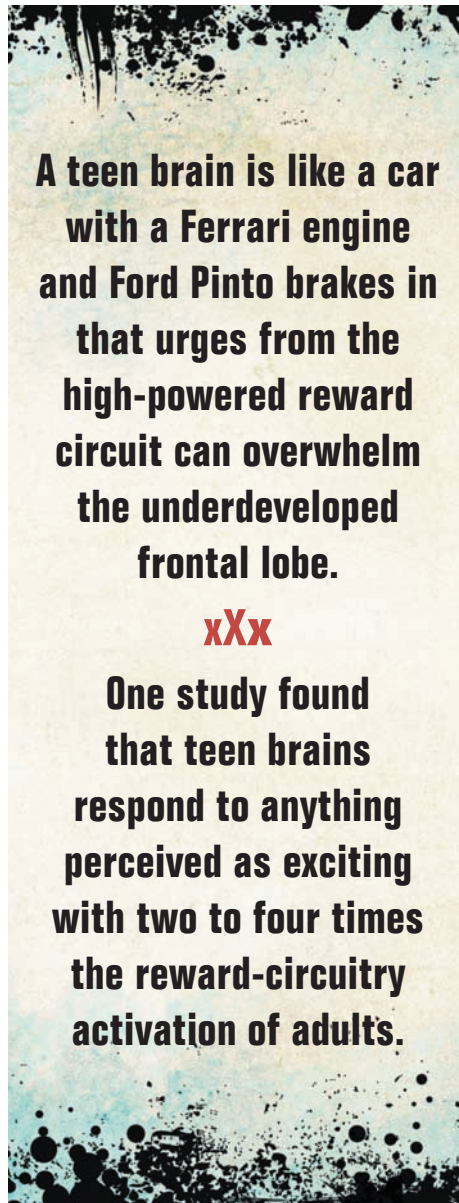
The question is—what input will shape these circuits? Today a 13-year-old's sexual pathways may be molded by hardcore pixels and constant novelty—perhaps years before his first sexual encounter, or even his first kiss.

While glued to his screen, a young guy is not learning courtship skills and he is not interacting with three-dimensional, real-life people in real relationships—very foundational adolescence tasks. And his brain is being wired by "excessive stimulations of the reward circuitry that are not the behaviors for which that circuit was designed..."<sup>3</sup> This is understandably problematic and especially so during the critical period of plasticity and organization during adolescence.

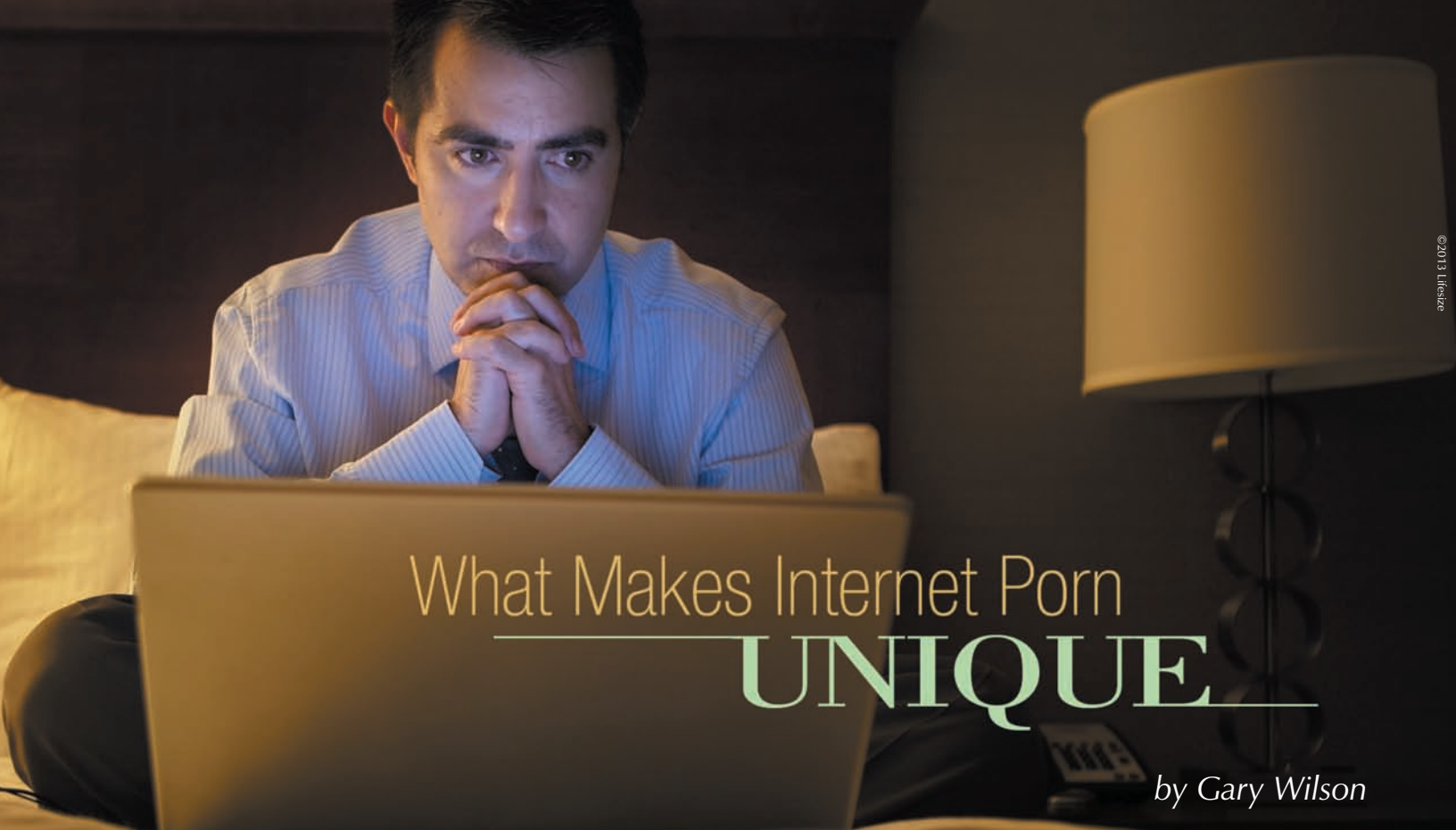
There is help for people with "bad wiring" and it begins with a cessation of all porn-related involvement. This allows the brain to "reboot"—somewhat analogous to restoring the brain to its original factory settings. One must also strengthen executive control—assessing risk and controlling impulses.

However, it is much better that involvement in pornography and other inappropriate sexual activities never happen. Better for adolescents now and better for relationships later in adulthood. ■

—Adapted from Gary Wilson's website (2010) "Your Brain on Porn" accessed at: <http://yourbrainonporn.com/transcript-adolescent-brain-meets-highspeed-porn>



1. Doidge, Norman. *The Brain That Changes Itself: Stories of Personal Triumph from the Frontiers of Brain Science*. Penguin Books, 2007. New York.
2. Jay Giedd in "Inside the Teenage Brain." PBS, *Frontline*. Accessed from <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/teenbrain/view/>
3. Jay Phelan (2013) in "Jay Phelan and Terry Burnham on Mean Genes." Accessed from <http://yourbrainonporn.com/jay-phelan-and-terry-burnham-mean-genes>



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# What Makes Internet Porn **UNIQUE**

by Gary Wilson

**I**t is evident that today's porn is easy to access, available 24/7, free and private. The way it is used keeps dopamine elevated for abnormally long periods, making Internet porn uniquely compelling, and potentially addictive.

Recovery sites often stress that the addictiveness of Internet porn is due to sexual activities becoming linked to exciting or shocking visuals. Certainly both play a role, but what sets Internet porn apart is:

It affords extreme novelty—hundreds of new sexual “partners” per session. Novelty is highly stimulating. Today's high-speed, high-definition Internet porn is categorically different from that of a generation ago which tended to be static and finite. Users often report that “real sex” grows boring by comparison to today's parade erotica-at-a-click.

Unlike food and drugs, for which there is a limit to consumption, there are no physical limitations to Internet porn consumption. The brain's natural satiation mechanisms are subverted because the user can click to something more exciting to become aroused again.

With food and drugs one can only escalate (a marker of an addiction process) by consuming more.

With Internet porn one can escalate both with more novel “partners” and by viewing new and unusual genres. It's quite common for a user to move to ever more extreme porn.

Unlike drugs and food, Internet porn doesn't eventually activate the brain's natural aversion system. Aversion is when you don't like how a drug or too many mashed potatoes make you feel.

The age users start watching porn has an effect as well. A teen's brain is at its peak of dopamine production and neuroplasticity, making it highly vulnerable to addiction and rewiring.

This doesn't even touch on the psychological impact of young people watching hard-core porn of every type imaginable and unimaginable. More important however, is the effect on the spiritual—truly devastating. However, it is also through the spiritual avenue that true deliverance can be realized. God understands the physical, the psychological, and the spiritual. He has the answers and the help that is needed. ■

—Adapted from Gary Wilson's website (2010) “Your Brain on Porn” accessed at: <http://yourbrainonporn.com/doing-what-you-evolved-to-do>



# 5 WAYS PORN **PERVERTS** AND GOD **RESTORES**

From Luke Gilkerson's free download "Your Brain on Porn: 5 Proven Ways Pornography Warps Your Mind And 3 Biblical Ways To Renew It" available at [www.covenanteyes.com](http://www.covenanteyes.com).

Decreases our sexual satisfaction

God is the creator of sexual satisfaction and has designed marriage, not pornographic fantasy, for its enjoyment (Song of Solomon 4:9-16; 1 Thess. 4:1-8).

Disconnects us from real relationships

God has defined good sex as an expression of "oneness," not emotional detachment (Gen. 2:24).

Lowers our view of women

God has created women in His image. They are not sexual commodities but are worthy of great honor (Gen. 1:27; 1 Pet. 3:7).

Desensitizes us to cruelty

God has designed sex as an expression of affection, not aggression (Deut. 22:25; Eph. 5:28-30).

Makes us want to watch more porn

God redeems our fallen sex drive so sex is an act of love and giving, not selfishness (1 Cor. 13:4-7; Gal. 5:22-23).

Each of these ideas is only a seed, but the more the mind engages with the Bible around these truths, the more our thoughts are renovated. Over time our minds will be rewired to see things God's way. As we do this we are "sowing to the Spirit" and in time will reap a harvest of eternal life (Gal. 6:8).



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## FIFTY DAYS TO FREEDOM

Dave Bowerman is releasing a new book *Fifty Days to Freedom*.

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It is designed to help people who are searching for freedom from strongholds to gain the most value from the original book, *Higher Pursuits: Overcoming the Lies that Keep Us from Freedom, Power, and Purpose*. *Fifty Days* contains 50, 15-minute sessions, each consisting of four sections: Read, Grasp, Pray, and Reflect. *Read* consists of assigned pages to read in *Higher Pursuits* and selected scripture passages. *Grasp* consists of a 2- to 3-minute video with Dave Bowerman or Melvin Adams commenting on the topic for the day. *Pray* contains a written prayer. *Reflect* is a thought, question, or exercise to complete until the following session. Both books are published by High Value Press and are available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). For more information, go to [www.higherpursuits.org](http://www.higherpursuits.org).



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## SCRIPTURES VS STRONGHOLDS

by Allan P. Brown, Chair  
GBS Division of Ministerial Education

**H**ow can one have strongholds of lust and impure thinking pulled down? The answer to this question begins with a promise from God: "The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

God can remove any stronghold from our life, therefore, many people experience frustration when God does not instantaneously do it. In these times we should stay focused on God and make sure our prayers are focused on His help. Here is a sample set of verses to use for help in pulling down the stronghold of pornography.

**Philippians 4:13:** I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.

*Dear God, You have the power to change my life. No one makes me look at pornography. To choose to look at pornography is a choice I make. It is a conditioned reflex to something that attracts me, and I have practiced giving vent to my lust and wrong thinking through pornography. This is sinful. God, please help me to stop this wrong behavior. You promise that through Christ who strengthens me, I can get victory over pornography.*

**Proverbs 28:13:** He that covers [or conceals] his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy.

*Dear God, I confess my problem with pornography. I ask you to forgive me and to help me never again to allow the desire to look at pornography gain control of my heart and mind. Oh God, please give me the power of Your Holy Spirit in this area of my weakness. I renounce pornography as wrong and sinful. With Your help, I confess my sin and purpose to forsake it. Please have mercy upon me.*

**Psalm 101:2-3:** I will be careful to lead a blameless life.... I will set before my eyes no vile thing.... I will have nothing to do with evil.

*Dear God, I sincerely desire to keep my conscience clear. Please strengthen my will so I will choose to not set before my eyes any pornography. Help me to hate pornography and stay away from it on the computer and everywhere else. Help me to have nothing to do with the evil of pornography.*

**Philippians 4:8:** Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

*Dear God, I ask you to help me to obey these verses. You tell me that I am responsible for what I allow my mind to think about and what I choose to look at. I am to think about only things that are pure, and holy, and in which you delight. Please strengthen my will not only to stay away from pornography, but also to flee from it when I feel tempted.*

Are you willing to discipline yourself to take spiritual medicine for 90 days? Then read these scriptures and prayers four times a day: rising from sleep, lunch, supper, and bed time, each time believing God to strengthen your inner man with His Spirit to give you victory over pornography until your next prayer session.

Remember that your life is composed daily of a series of choices. At each decision point, you have the ability, through God's grace, to choose to do what is right. Consistent victory over sin is nothing more than making the choice to do right at each decision point. ■

**PULLING DOWN STRONGHOLDS.** Christians are engaged daily in spiritual warfare. We fight against the belief systems of this world that are appealing but unbiblical, the negative and destructive thoughts that assail us, the habits and learned behaviors that enslave us, and the lies of the devil that discourage and depress us.

*The unabridged version of the short article above can be accessed online:*



[www.godsrevivalist.com/bonus](http://www.godsrevivalist.com/bonus)



# *the* **BEST** Treatment Option

*by Richard Miles*

**T**he topic of sexual sin, and specifically involvement with pornography, addresses a battle that is raging in the church today, leaving behind many casualties and a catastrophic number of captives. My mission is to look at plans for rescuing these POWs suffering in the dungeons of a brutal enemy. The tactics vary and, as with any critical “life or death” rescue attempt, SWAT teams vigorously debate the pros and cons of the plans. All would-be rescuers focus on what each believes is the safest and most successful rescue method. Failure is not an option!

I have noticed that rescuing the prisoners of sexual sin creates this same intense scrutiny and vigorous debate because in this, too, failure is not an option. There are those who fight for a plan to utilize the professional therapy brigade, while others lobby for the special forces of certified sex addiction counselors. Then there are the proponents of a plan to attack with the weapons of mass destruction—the Bible, repentance, and spiritual transformation. Some argue for the 12-step army because their study concludes that “everyone is using it.” And then there are those who believe we mix troops with differing skill sets and attack the enemy on multiple fronts.

Make no mistake, this is a real battle—one that must be fought in the Christian realm. Therefore, I begin on the bedrock of Christian beliefs. God establishes absolute truth and all humans are defiled by sin. Sinful behavior is unacceptable; therefore, sexual sin is

unacceptable. God’s wrath will be upon the immoral person who will be disqualified from inheriting the Kingdom of God (Eph. 5:1-5).

However, God provides a marvelous plan to redeem sinful people and desires that no person should perish and that all would repent (2 Pet. 3:9). Only salvation in Christ completes us and makes us whole. In *Pensées* Blaise Pascal noted that “There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus.” A vacuum sucks in whatever it can to fill the void. This is why, if we live in the flesh, we will practice the works of the flesh, which include sexual sin. But if we live in the Spirit, we will practice the fruit of the Spirit, including genuine love and personal control or discipline (Gal. 5:16-25).

We are primarily spiritual beings. Methods that ignore our core essence of spirituality leave a vacuum and we continue to operate from a deficit. These methods may change a behavior, but the vacuum remains and by its nature will draw in other things to fill the emptiness.

But we are also cognitive, physical, and social creations. A one-dimensional approach that dismisses our whole created being misses the complete healing. God’s healing plan gives healing to every dimension—body, mind, and relationships.



Debating the “best” method is good; however, fighting against each other and placing stumbling blocks in the pathway of a “prisoner” running for his life to freedom is an offense no Christian should commit. When helping someone who is struggling with a pornography problem, deliverance is the goal. There are various methods and tactics that may be employed throughout the process. In fact, people are indeed different, even in their responses to different types of help. No matter the method, it is God who gives deliverance.

I fear that if some of us had been with Jesus and saw Him heal the blind man by using spit and mud (John 9:6), we could not rejoice when others are healed of their blindness by a different method. God help us always to rejoice over every captive who is set free! It’s natural for people to exalt with passion the method that rescued them, but let us rejoice with those whose testimonies of deliverance are not the same as ours.

Therapeutic methods that disallow the awesome power of God may bring some measure of relief, but it is very fragile and, more often than not, very temporary. In fact, from the spiritual perspective, the person addicted to pornography who manages to “get well” apart from God’s help is actually sicker.

What we need are Christian SWAT Teams fully aware of the dire need to rescue prisoners and who are fully prepared for the rescue. We don’t fight each other. We have a common enemy and because of that we fight side-by-side using our different skills and gifts. Prisoners receive the joy of deliverance. Failure is not an option! ■

*Rev. Richard Miles has a master’s degree in counseling from Liberty University and is Vice President for Student Affairs at God’s Bible School and College.*



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## TREATMENT OPTIONS

Collins, George. *Breaking the Cycle: Free Yourself from Sex Addiction, Porn Obsession, and Shame*. New Harbinger Publications, 2011.

Gallagher, Steve. *A Biblical Guide to Counseling the Sexual Addict*. Pure Life Ministries, 2005.

Laaser, Mark. *Healing the Wounds of Sexual Addiction*. Zondervan, 2004.

## GENERAL RESOURCES

AAAC. *Healthy Sexuality*. A Biblical counseling certificate program on the Biblical perspective of love, intimacy, and healing. 15 DVDs, 30 lessons. American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC): 1-800-526-8673 or [www.aacc.net](http://www.aacc.net).

AAAC. *Treating Sexual Addiction*. A Biblical counseling certificate program on the causes and effects of, and ways to overcome sexual addiction. 8 DVDs, 15 lessons. American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC): 1-800-526-8673 or [www.aacc.net](http://www.aacc.net).

Huddleston, Brad. *The Dark Side of Technology I and II* (DVDs). Available at [www.darksideoftechnology.com](http://www.darksideoftechnology.com).

KingdomWorks Studios. *The Conquer Series: Battle Plan for Purity*. A DVD series to help develop a plan for purity in a lustful world, including five 1-hour long teaching DVDs and a leader’s DVD. Available at [www.conquerseries.com](http://www.conquerseries.com).

Thoburn, John; Baker, Rob; and Dal Maso, Maria. *Clergy Sexual Misconduct: A Systems Approach to Prevention, Intervention, and Oversight*. Gentle Path Press, 2011.

## FILTERS AND ACCOUNTABILITY SOFTWARE

Filtering/accountability software can be used to monitor Internet use on computers, smartphones, and tablets, and then generate reports which can be viewed by a third party (accountability partner). Some are free, but most cost money to buy or use.

Anti-Porn – [www.tueagles.com/anti-porn](http://www.tueagles.com/anti-porn)

Bsecure – [www.bsecure.com](http://www.bsecure.com)

Covenant Eyes – [www.covenanteyes.com](http://www.covenanteyes.com)

Cyber Patrol – [www.cyberpatrol.com](http://www.cyberpatrol.com)

Cyber Sitter – [www.cybersitter.com](http://www.cybersitter.com)

Family Cyber Alert – [www.itcompany.com/fca.htm](http://www.itcompany.com/fca.htm)

iShield – [www.guardwareinc.com/ishield](http://www.guardwareinc.com/ishield)

K9 Web Protection – [www1.k9webprotection.com](http://www1.k9webprotection.com)

McGruff SafeGuard – [www.gomcgruff.com](http://www.gomcgruff.com)

Net Nanny – [www.netnanny.com](http://www.netnanny.com)

OpenDNS – [www.opendns.com](http://www.opendns.com)

Pandora’s Hope – [pandorashope.com](http://pandorashope.com)

ParentalControl – [www.parentalcontrolbar.org](http://www.parentalcontrolbar.org)

Pure Sight – [www.puresight.com](http://www.puresight.com)

Safe Eyes – [www.internetsafety.com](http://www.internetsafety.com)

Total Net Guard – <http://afo.net>

WebWatcher – [www.webwatcherkids.com](http://www.webwatcherkids.com)

X3 Watch – [www.x3watch.com](http://www.x3watch.com)



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

# the president's page



## NOT EVEN A HINT: The Bible and Sexual Immorality

by Michael R. Avery, President

The 21st century doesn't have a monopoly on sexual sin. Sexual wickedness has haunted every age since the fall of man. God has used water, fire, and the sword to scrub previous civilizations clean of their moral rot. The Greek and Roman cultures were both so morally corrupt that they finally imploded—weakens and destroyed by their own lust. But what does seem to be unique to our day is that professing Christians—Bible-toting, Bible-believing Christians—have become quite at home in a culture deeply entrenched in all manner of sexual evil. It doesn't shock us. It doesn't upset us. It doesn't offend our consciences. The truth is, that unless it is really bad, sexual immorality just seems normal—even entertaining to many present day church folks! Many would even admit to telling dirty jokes, viewing pornography, and watching sexuality explicit movies! This, however, is not the biblical norm.

### Sexual Immorality (*Porneia*) Is Sub-Christian

Sexual immorality [any illicit sexual behavior including adultery, fornication, homosexuality, incest, prostitution, rape, lust, bestiality, pornography, sexual touch with someone who is not my spouse and voyeurism] is included on every list of "sins" in both Old and New Testaments. Jesus, Paul, and all the Biblical writers understood and taught that sexual activity outside of marriage between a man and a woman was wrong. The first Jerusalem Council made it very clear to the new converts coming out of paganism and into the Church that sexual immorality is "sub-Christian" and is unacceptable. Sexual immorality is so incompatible with the Christian life that Paul tells the Ephesian church that it is not enough simply to refrain from these sins, "*but among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk, or coarse joking, which are out of place....*" (Eph. 5:3-4).

### Sexual Immorality Is a Sin Against the Body

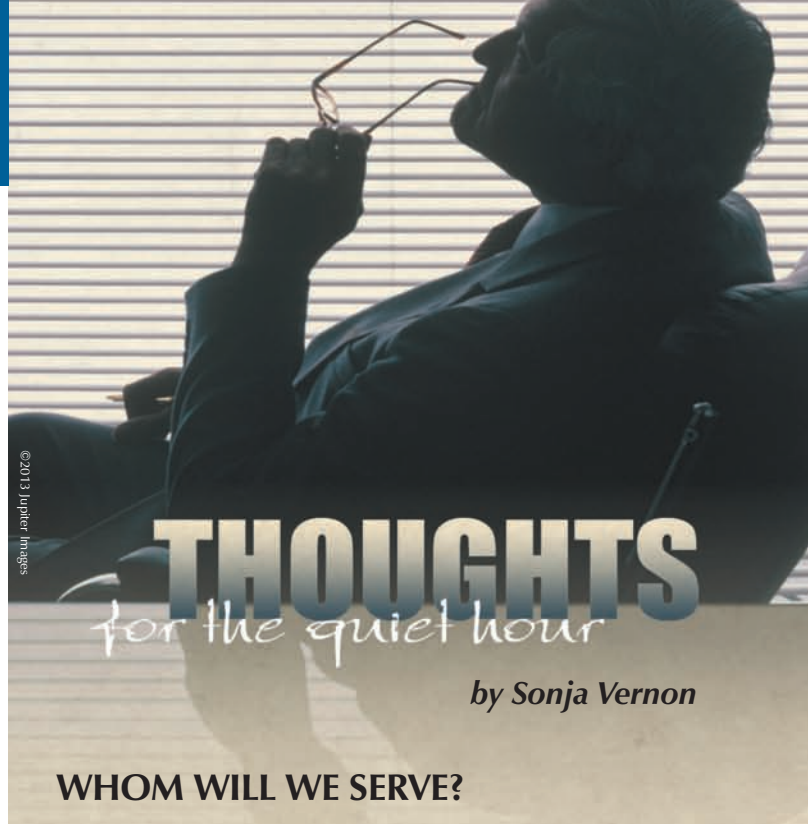
The culture of our day insists that the freedom to express ourselves sexually in any way we choose is

essential to our identity as human beings. But God's Word plainly says that the body belongs to Him and immoral sexual behavior is a sin "against the body" (1 Cor. 6:15-20). Many sins bring defilement and destruction to the body, but sexual immorality goes further and desecrates the body in the same mystical way that the temple is desecrated by bringing an idol into it.

### Sexual Immorality Is So Highly Contagious That We Dare Not Have Intimate Fellowship With People Who Are Sexually Immoral

In 1 Cor. 5:6-7,9-11 Paul tells the Corinthians, "*your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning*





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# THOUGHTS

for the quiet hour

by Sonja Vernon

the sexually immoral of this world...since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality—not even to eat with such a one.” Paul is quite blunt here. He makes it plain that we don’t “coddle” but rather “cut off” the sexually immoral person who claims to be a Christian yet chooses to persist in his immorality. The Corinthian man who pursued an incestuous relationship was to be handed “over to Satan.” This does not mean we do not show them love. It means we show them “tough love.” Love and grace are redemptive and transformative—not just accepting and tolerant.

## Sexual Immorality Has Irreversible Consequences

Proverbs 6:27-33 says, “Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned? Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched? So is he who goes in to his neighbor’s wife; none who touches her will go unpunished. People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his appetite when he is hungry, but if he is caught, he will pay sevenfold; he will give all the goods of his house. **He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it destroys himself. He will get wounds and dishonor, and his disgrace will not be wiped away.**”

## Sexual Immorality Must Be Dealt With By the Church

1. Create a zero tolerance for all sexual immorality. This means condemning all inappropriate sexual behavior and all sexual relations outside the bounds of a biblical marriage (which is between one man and one woman).
2. Discipline appropriately. When sexual immorality happens within the body of Christ, discipline should be administered fairly and without partiality.
3. Preach the Gospel. It is only the Gospel of Jesus Christ that can free anyone from the bondage of sexual sin. Counseling has many good things to offer in the healing and helping processes, but only the power of the gospel and walking in the Spirit frees from the “lust of the flesh.”
4. Lead—don’t just react. Teach others, especially young people, how to establish biblical guardrails in their lives. Guardrails are established in a safe zone to keep people from going into an unsafe zone. The idea is to help them choose behavior that keeps them some distance away from disaster.
5. Be redemptive. Create an environment that makes it easy to confess failure, seek help, and find forgiveness. ■

## WHOM WILL WE SERVE?

**“They have humbled themselves so I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some measure of deliverance... But they will become his slaves so that they may learn the difference between My service and the service of the kingdoms of the countries.” —2 Chron.12:7b,8 NASB**

One of the predominant messages in our culture today is that we control our own destiny. No one has the right to tell us what we can and cannot do with our own bodies. We alone decide what is “right” or “wrong” for us. As long as we don’t hurt anyone else, it’s our business alone how we choose to occupy our flesh. One glaring problem with this logic is that none of us exist in a vacuum, so none of us solely affect ourselves. For example, the “harmless” viewing of pornography done in private also affects the women and men it objectifies, the families it shatters, and the entire culture it infects with a separation of sexuality from its place in personhood. A second issue with this reasoning is raised by our scripture. We are not nearly as “free” as we believe. We will all serve someone. By believing that we alone have the right to control ourselves, we become slaves to our fleshly desires, and the flesh is a tyrannical master. Its appetite is insatiable. Just as God allowed Judah to experience the difference between serving Him and serving the surrounding nations, He also allows us to choose other masters. Will we choose the One who embodies self-giving love and gives boundaries for our good? Or will we choose the black hole of the flesh which ever hungers and is never filled? The choice is ours! ■

Sonja Vernon is Dean of Women at God’s Bible School and College.

SEPTEMBER 2013



# Alumni Voting 2013

Cast your vote in the Alumni Association Executive Council elections by logging on to:

<http://s.gbs.edu/alumniballot>

Absentee votes must be cast online by Oct. 9.

## HOMEcoming 2013

A TRIBUTE TO DR. KEN FARMER

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

#### THE HILLTOP CLASSIC

GBSC's fifth annual golf tournament  
Pre-register with payment online at [www.gbs.edu](http://www.gbs.edu)

5:00 - 6:30 PM

#### FARMER'S FAVORITE FRIED CHICKEN

Fried chicken dinner with potato wedges, vegetables, coleslaw, & rolls

7:30 - 9:00 PM

#### MUSIC & MEMORIES CONCERT

Featuring alumni choir led by Dr. John Enyart

7:30 - 9:00 PM

#### B.L.A.S.T.

Fun for children, ages 3-10

9:00 PM

#### GRAETER'S ICE CREAM RECEPTION

Enjoy an ice cream social including Dr. Farmer's favorite flavor, the suitably "nutty" Butter Pecan

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

8:00 - 9:30 AM

#### REUNION BREAKFAST BUFFET

Reunite with friends while eating a delicious breakfast

9:30 - 11:30 AM

#### B.L.A.S.T.

Fun for children, ages 3-10

10:00 - 11:30 AM

#### A TIME OF REFLECTION

Devotional by Dr. Henry Smith  
in Adcock Chapel  
Special Recognition of 25-  
and 50-year graduates

11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

#### FARMER'S COUNTRY MARKET

Homefest picnic with food, fun,  
and fellowship for all ages



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
[WWW.GBS.EDU/HOMECOMING](http://WWW.GBS.EDU/HOMECOMING)

