



General Topics :: having trouble with internet pornography?

having trouble with internet pornography?, on: 2010/11/17 13:07

I don't understand why there is so little direct addressing of the issue of internet porn in the church. As pastors you know that the church is loaded with it as are the pastors. Everyday Pastors and parishioners alike are losing their ministries, the marriages and their reputations to this but still no one will discuss it in the pulpit in any meaningful way.

I had issues with internet porn and finally found that there are ways to put a wall around myself as well as add accountability support which has kept me clean from it. A large number of ministers (estimated at 40% of ministers who access the internet) and estimated half of the men in the congregations are using it yet little is said. This is an 800 pound gorilla in the room.

There are many ways of approaching this issue...is anyone interested? Blessings- Ned

Re: having trouble with internet pornography? - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2010/11/17 13:21

Accountability helps but the greatest help is the fruit of the Spirit which is self-control.

Re: - posted by Shamefaced, on: 2010/11/17 13:34

I've been interested in this topic for awhile; why are Christian men tempted to view pornography? It seems to simplistic to say "they are consumed by lust and their depraved nature". Though there may be some truth to the aforementioned statement, has it been considered that the temptation to view pornography may spring from a lack of intimacy in their marriage? Since emotional and sexual intimacy is often on par with one another in the male psyche, lack of intimacy (more than just sexual) may result in seeking perceived intimacy from pornography. Loss of intimacy can result from many different causes: illness of a spouse, marital problems, behavioral problems of a spouse, ect... This is not an excuse to view pornography by any means but rather an opportunity to assess some of the root causes of this issue.

Re: - posted by Renoncer, on: 2010/11/17 14:05

The root of this sin is the same as all other sins: the sinful nature. Man's depravity because of the fall of Adam causes innumerable sins, including sexual immorality.

So, how do we deal with sexual immorality? The same way we deal with all other sins: Die to self, live in Christ. Die to lust and sexual immorality, live in Christ and self-control.

By the Spirit, put this sin to death, as you do all other sins. The Word of God is the sword of the Spirit. Thus, whatever temptation, sin, attack, or challenge you must overcome, hold on to God's Word regarding this issue. Know what God says about it; hold on to it by faith.

Faith in Christ is your victory. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ. Abide in Him. Pray until you have victory. If you feel weak, call someone to pray with you. Let us carry each other's burdens, helping one another. This is not about being "accountable" to someone else; this is about helping one another in the fight.

Re: having trouble with internet pornography? - posted by PQ (), on: 2010/11/17 14:10

Keith Daniel talked about the 'second look'... the enemy may tempt with the first look but the 'second look' is entirely up to us.

He went on to say, you cannot take the 'second look' if you are soaking yourself in the Word of GOD.

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 6:3 - Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!

How do one expect to judge angels if the angels are seeing them viewing unclean images.

"You are as holy as you want to be, any minister that tell you otherwise is a liar."

PQ*

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2010/11/17 14:37

Quote:
-----The root of this sin is the same as all other sins: the sinful nature. Man's depravity because of the fall of Adam causes innumerable sins, including sexual immorality.

Renouncer: What you say is true. There would be no problem with sin if it were not for sin. :-) And there is great power in realizing that we are dead with Christ indeed unto sin. This realization that it is through God's grace that we have the power over sin and can reckon ourselves dead indeed to sin is key, I think, to victory.

I do want to throw another element into this discussion though. Often there are issues behind the issue. I have rarely encountered a Christian man who is struggling with pornography that does not have much deeper issues that they need God's healing and deliverance from. In other words, porn is rarely the problem, but is usually a symptom of the problem. I would say that most men I have encountered who are having problems in this area have had great damage to their souls from rejection. Most who have problems in their marriages with true intimacy (not at all limited to sexual intimacy) have these issues in their lives. These are things that they need God to step in and heal, and often they have never allowed even God to come that close to them. I am not talking psychology here, but rather wounds of the emotions and mind that God must heal. It has been my experience that when this stronghold is brought down, the symptom of addiction to pornography falls as well.

Although we are born again in the Spirit, we are all living in the flesh (that is in a physical body with mind, will, and emotions that are not redeemed yet). We are transformed in our soul (mind, will, emotions) by the renewing of the mind through the word and etc., but that is a process that will never be completed until Christ returns. We will still battle with temptations of the mind and flesh. So it is important that we have close relationships with other men of God who we can be accountable to and strengthened in the Lord. But for the addictive behavior it is much prayer and discernment that is needed to determine what strongholds need to come down to see a man delivered from this thing.

Did you know that porn use is the fastest growing cause of divorce?, on: 2010/11/17 15:41

I Love the discussion regarding the motivation regarding porn use. It is clearly sin but is clearly one that is pillaging the church and the ministry. It is so under wraps that most users think they are the only pervert in the room rather than the other way around. When I have addressed my church I am stunned by the number of men who have come out saying that they did not know that this is a common issue (one out of every two men in the pew!) They will all acknowledge this as sin and then wonder what they can do.

There are great tools including excellent filters with accountability programs but no one will talk about it. If the issue is framed as porn "addiction" then again many will not come forth since they don't see it as an "addiction". But it must be talked about and in a big way...if you want a sepaaker then let me know but let's get this on the plate.

Re: Did you know that porn use is the fastest growing cause of divorce? - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2010/11/17 16:16

Believe it or not, this a growing problem with females. This problem is no longer confined to males.

Seems to me the devil knows his time is getting shorter and he is getting desperate and no longer is as subtle in his deception as he once was. It is flagrant, bold, public and unashamed.

This should tell us something..but then the younger generation is not aware of these subtle changes because they have not seen life from a perspective of many years.

ginnyrose

Re: - posted by Shamefaced, on: 2010/11/17 16:26

Twayneb,

I concur with your post :) As I said, it's too easy to write it off by saying "You need to stop your sinful behavior!". Obviously. Instead let's strike at the root and not minimize the emotional needs that many Christians have.

tools to stop internet porn use, on: 2010/11/17 18:13

I have found that filtering (without an over ride password) and accountability reporting (someone can see where I surf) is a great solution, "a way of escape".

Filtering alone is like the Law-it becomes the power of sin, something to be gotten around...but combine it with someone able to see you surfing history then the darkness must flee...and it does. Even though we know that the Lord is watching everything, somehow the thought that someone with "skin on" is watching makes the difference. If you knew your wife was watching you then it would be unlikely that you would go to the porn sites, or your pastor or best friend.....

Re: tools to stop internet porn use - posted by davym (), on: 2010/11/17 18:33

Below is a link to another SI thread which I feel has some wise advice on this topic. Don't be thrown by the thread title. The Holy Spirit brought out some great truth in the thread. https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?forum=48&topic_id=16033&post_id=124194&viewmode=thread&order=0

Re: good stuff, on: 2010/11/17 19:02

You are right there is good stuff in this thread.....I still am going to beat the drum for where is the out front discussion in the churches on the subject and where is the help for the folks? If half the male congregation who is on the net is using porn then how can it not go without substantial comment.....let me suggest some resources:

www.safeeyes.com
www.wisechoice.net which is a no over ride version of safeeyes
www.hedgebuilders.org
www.xxxchurch.com

These should be links on your church sites and the issue addressed head on....

Re: , on: 2010/11/17 19:35

I've seen some of the men in my church hugging the women folk many times.
Week after week , month after month the same ones hug as many ladies as they can.
Funny thing is I've never seen them hug a man.

any comments?, on: 2010/11/17 19:37

I see that over 200 people have been watching this discussion. I challenge you to add as to whether you have been to a porn site on purpose in the last month...This is an anonymous safe place to come clean...give it a try.

Re: any comments? - posted by 4hearts, on: 2010/11/17 21:25

Don't make Jesus laugh!!YOU CANT HELP IT.....BULL ---- He is watching you PLAY him .And christian?YOU WILL REALLY PAY!!Is greasy grace your hand lube?Please!!Just try to imagine his torture on Calvary.PLEASE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Re: tools to stop internet porn use - posted by twayneb (), on: 2010/11/17 21:29

Quote:
-----I have found that filtering (without an over ride password) and accountability reporting (someone can see where I surf) is a great solution, "a way of escape".

Although it does not solve the core problem of addiction, filtering software for a computer is, in my opinion, a must. It sur

e cuts down on the temptations that are thrust in front of the eyes. We use a filter on our machines. My wife has the passwords. It is really awesome. I NEVER have to worry about racy banner ads, pop ups, etc. They just never appear. Worry free internet usage. It's too bad Walmart does not have a "filter" for the checkout lanes. I am totally for tools that help you, but it is only Jesus who can set you free.

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2010/11/17 22:37

4Hearts, greasy grace? I despise the term, grace came at the cost of the blood of Jesus Christ our Lord thus, there is no thing greasy about it, it is grace that will pardon and cleanse within, it is grace that will cleanse us from all our sin, there is no such thing as greasy grace. There may be individuals who take advantage of that grace, but that does not make grace "greasy" and, really, don't we all take advantage of God's grace in our own peculiar, individual ways?

Re: Did you know that porn use is the fastest growing cause of divorce? - posted by MyVeryHeart (), on: 2010/11/18 1:5

But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. Revelation 2:20 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." 17:4-5

A year ago I was drinking from this cup of filth. I was captive in Babylon. I lay here in bed next to my wife writing this right now. A year ago I was laying in bed engaging in sexual immorality as she slept beside me.

I loved sports, movies, tv shows, pop fiction books, I loved so many things that I had played the harlot with. I did not love the Lord Jesus Christ. I loved the world. This is the root. It is spiritual harlotry that leads to sexual immorality. First the spirit convicted me of how I played the whore with my God. Then the Spirit convicted me of how I really wanted to make God my prostitute to get blessings, and gifts, and eternal life, All about what he could give me if I payed him lip service. I was utterly wicked And I thought I was righteous. I deserved hell, I still do. I had to confess to my wife, I had to confess how I was holding the cross of Christ up to contempt, and as a result my witness was scattering instead of gathering.

I had to Repent of my Sins. And as I came to myself, and I saw the filth I was living in, the Pigs were all around me, I said I HAVE SINNED AGAINST HEAVEN AND EARTH AND I AM NOT WORTHY TO BE CALLED YOUR SON.

The father saw me, a long way off, I was covered in filth. I was covered in my snot and my tears. I was helpless.

AND THIS IS THE GRACE OF GOD.

HE RAN TO ME FELL ON MY NECK AND KISSED ME.

He called me his son. He said that I was his child and that he loved me. He has given me his Spirit so that I will never go back to wallowing in the filth with those Pigs again, because he loves me, and I love him. It is now unthinkable that I would ever go back.

The forgiveness found at the Cross of Jesus Christ is so overwhelming. He is so full of Grace. I would rather die then do that to my God again, my hearts desire, my greatest love, never, ever, ever again. I know that nothing will separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Brothers, you who are in this filth, come to yourselves, Repent and see the filth you are wallowing in, the Father is looking for you, he wants to run out to you and scoop you up in his arms. Please God set the captives free. Oh come out of her my people, come out. Drink from this filthy cup of abomination no longer. There is mercy in My Father's Arms. He loves us so much, so, so, much.

My Son has come home. He was lost now he is found. He was dead now he lives. My Son, My Son, has come home.

Re: Shamefaced - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2010/11/18 2:35

Quote:
-----I've been interested in this topic for awhile; why are Christian men tempted to view pornography? It seems to simplistic to say "they are consumed by lust and their depraved nature". Though there may be some truth to the aforementioned statement, has it been considered that the temptation to view pornography may spring from a lack of intimacy in their marriage? Since emotional and sexual intimacy is often on par with one another in the male psyche, lack of intimacy (more than just sexual) may result in seeking perceived intimacy from pornography. Loss of intimacy can result from many different causes: illness of a spouse, marital problems, behavioral problems of a spouse, ect... This is not an excuse to view pornography by any means but rather an opportunity to assess some of the root causes of this issue.

I think it is mostly indeed the consumption of lust and depraved nature. The "lack of intimacy," "spousal illness," "marital problems," and "behavioral problems of a spouse," are not things the cross fixes for "me." The cross cannot fix in me...external factors. I think these ought to only be labeled as such. All of these can be construed as excuses. If I ever approach any of my own personal sin with a construct that requires a more "saline" environment. I will never experience victory. Adam and Eve enjoyed the bliss of Eden, there was never a more perfect environment for anyone...yet sin entered through this one man. This one man who I know so well because I am/was him.

I am an ex-addict, and while temptation may arise on a daily basis, my lust has been sledge-hammered to the cross. All its putrid, vile wretchedness is now enjoying rigormortis in the wind. I cannot emphasize enough brothers (and sisters) the importance of the fruit of self-control which only comes from the Holy Spirit.

I quipped at the beginning of this thread that accountability is helpful, but it is only skin deep. Once the accountability is removed, and circumstances present you a plate of Turkish Delight, you will go right after it again with rampant ardor, and the devil will set up vacancy in your life and throw a block party for all his homies. You cannot simply "reform" or "clean" your house out. You must be filled with the Holy Ghost, Jesus must be living out his will through you. You must be his glove.

It must be the love of Christ compelling us to hate sin...to work out our salvation with fear and trembling in such a way that we do not want to disappoint our Lord.

About thirty good long readings through the book of Galatians, with an open heart and a ready mind, and a will to submit to its deepest truths wrecked lust for me. The book of Galatians is like a border-patrol agent that deported me from a world of self absorption to a state of grace.

Rule keeping is a beggarly replacement for walking in the Spirit. This is where so many "holiness" people get it wrong in my opinion. People make up all sorts of rules, or construct all sorts of paper houses in order to protect themselves from the elements of sin. God already offered us His solution, it is the cross. While God has offered us all this gift of freedom, the only way it is appropriated is through a reckoning. Reckon your death. Walk in the newness of the Spirit. Here there is no "rule," rather here is what the "rules," are always trying to point us too.

Who would ever want to live in a description of a house? No one in their right mind would ever ever consider such folly (the avant garde notwithstanding.) Rather, they do what is more sensible...they live in what was once described, and has moved on to being constructed. Every house begins with a "plan," but a plan only serves a purpose for a while.

This is grace, this is New Covenant life. This is what Jesus gave everything up for...

May God grant the grace for any brother or sister who cannot overcome this to see this sin for the puke that it is. May we respond to the conviction of the Holy Spirit..."Now to him that is able to keep thee from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God and Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever, Amen!" -Jude 24-25

Re: MyVeryHeart - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2010/11/18 2:42

Bro, that was an AWESOME post, what a testimony! Brought tears to my eyes man. All I have to say to that is, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." -Revelation 12:11

Re: , on: 2010/11/18 3:46

Some excellent points have recently been made. I would just add quickly that we need to fear God MIGHTILY and renew our minds in the scriptures.

All who don't repent of pornography will go in the lake of fire forever. That sounds blunt, but it's true! (A hundred scriptures could be given but Ephesians 5:5-6, Revelation 21:8, Rev. 21:27 come to mind) If I were to use pornography, I know I'd either repent of it in tears utterly ashamed I'd ever sin so against God (I looked at it before I was converted and I did repent in tears and shame) OR spend eternity in hell. Brothers, it's that simple! We need to remember that!

Also, if we're renewing our minds in the scriptures and drawing near to God, developing the mind of Christ, won't we be seeing more and more how evil this sin is? Won't our fellowship with Christ increase that the thought of losing it literally scares us? Won't giving into that be like trading ten million dollars for a piece of candy if we are having fellowship with Christ? Won't we realize that the women we're looking at are going to hell and need Christ so badly to save them? How heartless to look at someone in the very thing that is destroying their lives now (many of those women are greatly disturbed and abused) and will contribute in their damnation if they don't repent and flee to Christ? Won't we realize how vain and perverted this will make our minds if we keep indulging in it?

I'm all for filters, but we got to be renewing our minds in the scriptures (Romans 12:2) and fear God. We don't want a candy bar with deadly poison within our grasp; but if it's there, won't it still be impossible to get us to eat it if we're really in our right minds?

Re: Lake of Fire - posted by staff, on: 2010/11/18 7:21

hi,

I don't agree with the statement below, if you are in the lord's hand, you're in the lord's hand. If that's true, all alcoholics, all gamblers, etc. will go into the lake of fire! Where does it stop? How do you know where the line is between those who go into the lake of fire and those who don't? The line is in my opinion whether they are saved. The issue raised here is whether you can lose your salvation or not.

I believe you can't and I could be wrong, but I think you believe you can. I respect that position. Sin is sin, it's all wrong, habitual or not, and all against God, and all can be blotted out by the blood of the lamb. I have heard the arguments for and against losing your salvation, and I personally believe you can't, but other Christians come to the opposite conclusion. Staff

(All who don't repent of pornography will go in the lake of fire forever. That sounds blunt, but it's true! (A hundred scriptures could be given but Ephesians 5:5-6, Revelation 21:8, Rev. 21:27 come to mind) If I were to use pornography, I know I'd either repent of it in tears utterly ashamed I'd ever sin so against God (I looked at it before I was converted and I did repent in tears and shame) OR spend eternity in hell. Brothers, it's that simple! We need to remember that!)

Re: are any of you preachers?, on: 2010/11/18 8:27

It is exactly true that Christ is the only way out and he is the one who makes us hate the sin...however, as anyone who has been an alcoholic or drug addict knows, there are many ways of escape. Some people have great self-control through God, but others like Paul do the things they shouldn't and don't do the things that they should....

I have seen folks instantly healed of alcoholism with no need for AA or anything, then I have seen others whose way out has been 12-step programs and slow deliverance, I have seen others who are lovers of the Lord who have died of their addiction....

But preachers, I am asking again...are you addressing this from the pulpit, are you offering judgement or healing? Are you doing anything??? Pray about it...you ALL have congregations full of porn users. Statistically, one out of every two men in front of you are using it if they are on the net. Possibly 100% of the young male adults....

I will include these links with each of my posts if that's all right with the administrator. I am associated with one of the co

companies just so that I am transparent but I am including links to several so that this is not spamming.

www.safeeyes.com
www.wisechoice.net which is a no over ride version of safeeyes
www.hedgebuilders.org
www.xxxchurch.com

Re: - posted by davym (), on: 2010/11/18 9:25

I think one of the reasons that internet pornography is not addressed directly in churches is because it is a very dark, depraved subject to be talking about. It really is one of the worst manifestations of our old nature. It's also a problem of a private, personal nature. It may be referred to on the fringes of a sermon, but to get into the details with families present would be unthinkable.

Also, internet pornography is very much a modern phenomenon and many churches have leaders and elders from a generation where pornography was less accessible. Perhaps the pervasiveness of the problem is underestimated as well as the associated spiritual damage.

I do know a number of churches who have specific men and women ministries where the problem can be addressed more directly, but ultimately I think a private conversation with a pastor or close spiritual companion is the best way forward.

This subject should also not be given more attention than it deserves. The way to victory is not constant anguish over failure and falls, but by believers really embracing, taking seriously and enjoying! the new life they have in Christ. This way the mind will quickly be renewed to the point where the attraction to all sorts of sin will die, including internet pornography.

For those struggling, it is imperative to have filter software on their computers otherwise they should not use the internet.

In Christ

David

my story, on: 2010/11/18 9:51

Good word David, indeed some churches do have groups that address this but most don't...let me tell you my story, perhaps this will help someone.. a number of years ago when I first got onto the internet I had heard about internet pornography. I have always been an activist-pro-life an evangelist etc. so I thought I would have a look at this phenomenon with an eye to seeing about doing battle against it. The porn sites were really easy to find and almost instantly I was faced with insanely graphic sex of a nature I had never seen before- I got really angry and decided that something must be done. A few hours later, I went back to do some more "research" and then back again and again until I was spending hours at a time gorging on the incredible imagery. Suddenly I realized that I had a problem, a character weakness that I never knew existed. Over and over I vowed to stay clear of the sites, made deals with God, prayed but there I was again right after church. It was destroying my prayer life and I knew that if my wife found out that I was going to be toast!

I thought about talking to my pastor but the thought of revealing my depravity stopped me. I had never heard of any other of my Christian brothers involved in this (little did I know that many or most had the same problem). At the same time I knew that if I didn't do something about it that God would! In my case he would shout it from the house tops....

So in the spirit of "if your right hand offends you then cut it off" I decided that I had to get off the internet. The same day my webmaster for my business website came in and asked if I had heard of internet filtering. He knew nothing of my use of pornography (oh no! Nobody knew except me and God...and satan).

A way of escape- There was no filtering available back in those times in my area 1998 so he hacked me onto one of the filters. It was wonderful-such a relief. Soon after I was discovered and they kicked me off even if I would pay for it!! So being the activist that God made me to be I decided to start my own filtering company for our area.

Since that time I have operated a filtering resource aimed toward adult men and since that time I have found out that this is a dark secret that no one will talk about..not to their pastors, not to their friends, certainly not to their wives. It is this secretiveness that the enemy uses to keep us locked up. Men are easy pickings for this type of activity-we are visual and

sexually driven. The society beats the sexual drum constantly.

The power of internet porn in the natural is explained by the three A's of internet porn addiction- Accessibility (anyone with a internet connection-Affordability,millions of sites absolutley free, and anonymity-you can hide out in the back room or after your wife has gone to bed and know one has to know.....

We must bring this out into the open. Where there is light the darkness must flee! There is virtually no light on this subject in the church and the enemy is reveling!

Re: - posted by MyVeryHeart (), on: 2010/11/18 10:00

Quote:

-----however as anyone who has been an alcoholic or drug addict knows that there are many ways of escape

I was a drug addict. I used to smoke methamphetamines. AA will not save you from your sins. Drunkards and Sorcerers will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only Jesus Christ can save you from your sins. Your filters do not work. Not using the internet does not work. None of these things will deliver you from sexual immorality. It is not an addiction. It is sin. It needs to be repented of. Not managed.

Quote:

-----I will include these links with each of my posts if that's all right with the administrator. I am associated with one of the companies just so that I am transparent but I am including links to several so that this is not spamming. www.safeeyes.com www.wisechoice.net which is a no over ride version of safeeyes www.hedgebuilders.org www.xxxchurch.com

These things treat the symptom not the core problem which is spiritual harloty. It is Idolatry to trust anything but Jesus to save you from your sins. It is Idolatry that brings you into bondage to these sins.

Repent and have Faith in Jesus Christ he is the only WAY.

Areadymind - posted by MyVeryHeart (), on: 2010/11/18 10:05

Areadymind,

I love Jesus so much, Love you to brother.

I love you too, on: 2010/11/18 10:16

No sinner will enter the kingdom of heaven.(no human therefore will enter the kingdom)...here comes Jesus!

I hope you never relapse into Meth use...but if you do I suspect that you will stay "saved". I don't want to get into a major theological debate about once saved always saved, or predestination etc.

I do know that I am sold out to Jesus and I also know that I need a hedge of protection around me as the "old man" keep poking his head out to bring me down...filters don't provide salvation they are merely a tool to provide a wall around us so as to guard the "eye gate". The word says to flee from evil, yet if you must use the internet then evil will find you unless you take steps to guard your self. The word says to bear with the weaker brother. I hope that you are sucessful in stayin g clean...I know that I would have real problems if I let my guard down.

Please do not say that I am not saved as you are not one to judge my heart.

Re: I love you too - posted by MyVeryHeart (), on: 2010/11/18 10:31

Ask Ned,

God will be the judge of you and me.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments." John 14:15

"Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality" Romans 13:13

Not loving Jesus is spiritual harlotry. Babylon is the mother of Harlots and those in her will drink from the cup of her abominations.

God alone will keep us clean by his Holy Spirit. The blood of Jesus alone will wash our stains away.

Many want to do it their own way,

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death." Proverbs 14:12

Re: - posted by Lysa (), on: 2010/11/18 11:06

My story is from a woman's experience (I hope this translates well). When married, my ex-husband wanted me to watch with him and I did but I secretly blamed him for watching porn b/c he was the one with the problem and the Lord revealed to me "MY" own lusts of the flesh.

During this time I would pray, "Lord, show me what I need to be removing from my life and I will remove it!" When all the while, this tiny, small voice in the back of my mind would imply "pornography," and I'd pray louder, "Lord show me what you want me to remove and I'll remove it!" I didn't want to admit that "LISA" might have a problem.

One night I had a dream and in it the phone was ringing AT 3:00 in the morning (on the other side of the my house) and as I was walking through my house, it was like walking through a half lit house with lots of shadows and the light trying to get in. (It looked like SWAT had all their lights set up outside of my house.) I got to the phone, picked it up and said, "Hello," a voice sounding very strong said, "You aren't MOVING what you're supposed to be moving." I said, "Who is this?" and the voice said, "I'm an angel in the night." I asked, "What am I supposed to be moving?" And he said, "You know EXACTLY what supposed to be moving. I've got to go; I have more phone calls to make." Click.

In my prayers, I was blaming my husband and saying, "If you fixed him, then I would be helped, so help him first; (I tell ya, we human beings like to play the games, don't we? lol) It took a few months of prayer and reading the word but the Lord began showing me that it was "ME" oh Lord standing in the need of prayer.

The second thing that the Lord brought to my attention was through listening to a local pastor's wife speak at a women's prayer breakfast (on cassette tape in 1996 or 7) and I can only remember one sentence from it; she was semi-quoting Job, "I DON'T LOOK AT THE THINGS I USED TO LOOK AT BECAUSE I HAVE MADE A COVENANT WITH MY EYES."

I wept all the way home and looked up "eyes" in my strong's concordance and found Job 31.1 and Rev 3.18. I found Wesson oil in my cabinet and anointed my eyes tears and oil and made a covenant with God that I would not look at the things I used to look at. I shared this with my husband and he did ask me a little later about watching a movie but I started crying and he KNEW I couldn't and wouldn't. He never asked again.

Then the cares of this life got in the way and I divorced and backslid a few years later and I never watched porn again BUT I did buy romance novels. God has such patience with us. After 3 or 4 years, the Lord wooed me back to Him and we started again to clean out my mind from even more stuff, here's what has worked for me.

Finding a private place and describing (out loud and in detail) to the Lord what I was thinking about. Do you know how humiliating that is? But I would rather be humiliated here on earth than be standing before Him and Him showing all that stuff to me and the masses behind me.

I'm not bragging, I am just humbling sharing that when you are tired of being carried away by your mind, you try anything. And I tried one time explaining out loud to God what was going on in my mind and it worked! So I tell him when satan tries to onslaught me.

Only what we try to hide and keep for ourselves (in the dark recesses of our mind) thrives and takes root. The only ammunition the devil has is when we are working with him to hide whatever it is we don't want God to see; stop hiding your fantasies from God, be honest with Him and these won't have such a hold on you.

God help us all get to purity in mind and body,
Lisa

Re: , on: 2010/11/18 12:52

how is it working for you? Have you attained the sin free life? Blessings in the name of Jesus

Re: , on: 2010/11/18 12:53

Thank you sister, what a blessing you are!

Re: - posted by Madefree (), on: 2010/11/18 12:56

I posted this on the other discussion of similar sort. But if anyone reading this thread does have this problem and need help privately, here's a website that has a section that will help you with just that.

www.illbehonest.com

There is a lot of Paul Washer material there and they seem to be pretty trustworthy.

Hope it helps.

Re: - posted by Renoncer, on: 2010/11/18 17:47

Beware of making light of sin. Remember what you are dealing with. At the surface, it may look like mere habits; but at the root, it is a dangerous evil. Accountability partners and internet filters might help you deal with habits, but they will never kill the daunting enemy. Make a declaration of full-out war against the sinful nature and its enticements, saying, "Wherever I find you, I'll kill you." Your only hope in this war is to abide in Christ. By the Spirit of Christ, put to death the misdeeds of the flesh.

Do not be like King Saul, who did not see it necessary to completely destroy the Amalekites. Call on the Spirit of the Lord to put this Agag to death. Do not leave anyone breathing. Like Samuel, say to this treacherous enemy, "As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women", and hack this sin to pieces before the LORD!

If you need help from a friend, may it be to hold you up in the fight, and not simply to wait for an account of the battle. When the messenger cries out, "Fallen! Fallen!", there is nothing left but bitter weeping. Otherwise, when your life is in jeopardy, may the son of Zeruiah deliver you from the hands of the giant's offspring.

Finally, take heed to this warning: Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted (Galatians 6:1).

Re: who is making light of sin?, on: 2010/11/18 18:31

There are some practical applications such as you can't get shot in a bar room if you are not in the bar...or you won't get stuck in Atlanta if you are not in Atlanta...you will not get hung up in Internet porn if you can't get to the porn sites....

There is no conflict with the Word here...if you have to be on the internet then be wise.... "flee from evil"

www.safeeyes.com
www.wisechoice.net which is a no over ride version of safeeyes
www.hedgebuilders.org
www.xxxchurch.com

praying and fasting, on: 2010/11/18 18:36

Has anyone ever had an issue where they prayed and fasted and prayed and fasted yet had no relief.....this issue is tough and I know many including myself where praying and fasting did not get God to take this thorn from me...yet he expects me to stay out of porn anyway...so I found (or He showed me) filtering and accountability and it has worked...Thank you Lord. To you be the Glory. All things pass through your hands...even filtering

Re: , on: 2010/11/18 18:53

Quote:

-----Make a declaration of full-out war against the sinful nature and its enticements, saying, "Wherever I find you, I'll kill you."

I really like that Renouncer.

Re: - posted by Renoncer, on: 2010/11/18 19:36

Asked,

Even if you do not have access to internet pornographic websites, you can still be sexually immoral in your heart and on your way to hell.

As much as I agree with incentives to stay away from such sources of temptation, they still don't deliver you from sin; they simply help your behaviour. "Flee from sexual immorality" should be written on your heart, not enforced by guilt or the fear of man.

This is the difference between victory in Christ and conformity in the works of the flesh. One saves from sin; the other deceives unto death. Saving grace compels us to uphold the Law, not the other way around.

This is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith.

Re: Salvation and Sin - posted by staff, on: 2010/11/18 19:52

Hi,I agree with what your saying here except I would like to point out that there are a lot of great preachers on this website and some of them believe you can lose your salvation and some don't. It's by no means clear cut. I don't know what the breakdown is. I do think that your reward in heaven is at stake though. I do respect your position but I would like to point out to viewers of this thread that point on salvation, Staff

(Even if you do not have access to internet pornographic websites, you can still be sexually immoral in your heart and on your way to hell.)

Re: praying and fasting - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2010/11/18 20:01

Praying and fasting do not get rid of sin in our hearts. You could pray and fast to the grave, and go there a hungry adulterer. Aestheticism will not save you. The cross saves you. It is the Blood...the Blood. Our faith must ever be in the power of the Blood.

Re: , on: 2010/11/19 5:16

Quote:
-----Hi, I agree with what your saying here except I would like to point out that there are a lot of great preachers on this website and some of them believe you can lose your salvation and some don't. It's by no means clear cut. I don't know what the breakdown is.

In all fairness, there are many preachers that also have a love for their doctrine much more than they have a love for Scripture. The breakdown, if you will, really might not be as unclear as some might have you believe.

Consider a few of these, and read them in context.

1 Corinthians 15:1-2

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, IF you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. (If makes it conditional)

Hebrews 6:4-6

For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, AND THEN HAVE FALLEN AWAY, it is impossible to RENEW THEM AGAIN to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame. (How can one be renewed to something they never had, or something that they never fell away from in the first place?)

Romans 11:19-21

You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in." Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. FOR IF HE DID NOT SPARE THE NATURAL BRANCHES, HE WILL NOT SPARE YOU EITHER. (Spare them from what? He's writing to believers standing by faith. Paul says they can be broken off as well. From what?)

We will not be judged by what we're told by preachers on Sermon Index, or by Godly men with good intentions. We're going to be judged by the Word of God. It really is dangerous bro, to tell people struggling with any sort of sin, or making a lifestyle of sin with no victory, that it doesn't effect their salvation in the slightest.

Will we sin after salvation? Most probably.
Can we make a habitual lifestyle of sin? Sure, but we forfeit salvation to do so.

Too much of Scripture speaks against once saved, always saved, no matter what preachers, teachers, Christian brothers, or denominational statements of faith say to the contrary.

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2010/11/19 5:57

Quote:
-----It's too bad Walmart does not have a "filter" for the checkout lanes.

Too bad there is no filter to filter out the people that shop there in varying stages of undress...

ginnyrose

Re: , on: 2010/11/19 7:48

My apologies in advance for the length of this post. I've been following it a bit and I'd like to make a comment here.

Quote:
-----In all fairness, there are many preachers that also have a love for their doctrine much more than they have a love for Scripture. The breakdown, if you will, really might not be as unclear as some might have you believe.....Too much of Scripture speaks against once saved, always saved, no matter what preachers, teachers, Christian brothers, or denominational statements of faith say to the contrary.

It's amazing to me, how much we always are ready to point the finger at the other Christian, the one who disagrees with our position, as being the one who doesn't have it right. We always are ready to claim that it is we that have the understanding of Scriptures and not the other man. We accuse others of having "doctrinal positions", not realizing that we to are speaking from a "doctrinal position" despite all our claims that we are guided by Scripture alone.

By focussing on the "many scriptures" that speak against once saved always saved, it is very possible to miss the "many scriptures" that speak of the believer being preserved and kept by the power of God. The fact that it is God that began a good work in us, and He is faithful to complete it. We must look at scripture as a whole, and realize there are somethings we cannot be dogmatic about. It is the same with predestination and free will. The bible teaches both, and to hold to the Scriptures that teach one aspect and ignore the other would cause us to begin to have "doctrinal positions", unknowingly, even if we claim not to have one.

I believe the message coming out of the Scriptures as a whole is not about whether a Christian can lose his salvation or not, so as to create Christians who serve God out of fear and dread of losing salvation. Or whether a Christian can never lose his salvation so as to create Christians who become lazy and complacent because they believe they can never be lost, no matter what. But to plead with those who profess a faith in Christ, to individually "make their calling and election sure" that is to examine themselves "to see if they be in the faith", to ensure that they are truly in possession of so great a salvation.

There are some points in Scripture that cannot be held to dogmatically. We must submit to the teaching of Scripture as a whole and be ready to let go of our own doctrinal position, no matter how much we claim not to have one and think that Scripture alone backs us up and not the other man.

On the issue of pornography which is the original intent of this thread, I believe the same principle applies. The scripture teaches both.

The only thing that can deliver a man from an addiction, whatever it is, is the Spirit of Almighty God. There is no disputing this. It is Christ that has put to death the old man in His cross and rendered him powerless, so that we should no longer be under the power of sin. That is indisputable. It is by the Holy Spirit that we are able to walk in victory and have the life of Christ in us. Without a doubt this is the truth.

There is absolutely nothing wrong however, with someone using an internet filter to prevent them from coming across anything that will cause them to stumble. Just because I have been made free from sin, does not make me immune to temptation or make it so that I can never again stumble. Let he that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. To trust in internet filters to deliver you from your sin, would not be correct, and I don't think that is what the original poster was suggesting. But using a filter to help you to shun the very appearance of evil is a very good idea and I believe scripturally sound.

The bible teaches us that it is God that delivers us from the power of sin. It is He that has made it so that those who trust in Christ do not have to be under the bondage of sin. The bible also teaches that we should keep ourselves pure by any means necessary. "If thy right hand offendeth thee, cut it off". So filters are a good idea for the weak brother. The scriptures teach both.

On the issue of pornography addiction not being dealt with from the pulpit. The Lord leads me to the book of Ezra. Where after the Lord had granted them deliverance, the people were once again entangled with intermarriage with the nations around them, the very thing for which they were sent into captivity. Ezra's response to the sin in Israel in Ezra 9:1-15 was to fall down before God and weep and be broken for the sin and include himself in the transgression. Even if we did start to hear it being spoken of from the pulpit, I think there will only be a change when the pulpit becomes broken for the sin.

in in the camp as Ezra was. It was the same with Daniel in Daniel chapter 9. In Daniel's prayer of repentance he included himself in the sin of Israel with "by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:". Despite the fact that Daniel was of impeccable character. God help us to be broken for the sin in the camp, and include ourselves in the sin.

Thank you for raising this issue. Reading the responses and seeing the trend of the discussion, reinforces in me now more than ever, our need to be broken before God so that He send revival in these last days.

Re: More than one view on Sin And Salvation - posted by staff, on: 2010/11/19 8:17

(In all fairness, there are many preachers that also have a love for their doctrine much more than they have a love for Scripture. The breakdown, if you will, really might not be as unclear as some might have you believe.)

Hi,

On any other threads on Salvation and you will see that it is not clear cut like you put across and preachers will show scripture to show that once saved always saved. We were saved, we are being saved and ultimately when we die or raptured we will be saved. It is equally dangerous to tell people they are going to hell when they are saved. Of course there are consequences of sin. Our Judgement is one of reward not of salvation. No matter which way you put it either grace or works gets us to heaven and we know it is not works. When Jesus died on the cross all my sins and yours were in the future. This is not a thread on salvation but a very very useful thread on sin. I just wanted to point out that not all scholars of the word of God go with once saved always saved like you and show scripture to support that side and some scholars of the word of God believe you can't lose your salvation and show scriptures to support that view. You put your side across as if there is no other view,

Preaching Judgement is really important though and works best with the unsaved and not scaring the life out of the saved in my opinion, Staff

Re: More than view on Sin And Salvation, on: 2010/11/19 8:42

Just provided some Scripture. You can take it or leave it. Either way.

Here's an interesting listen;

Part 1

<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid=11895&commentView=itemComments>

Part 2

<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid=11896&commentView=itemComments>

Re: - posted by davym (), on: 2010/11/19 9:13

Quote:
-----Even if we did start to hear it being spoken of from the pulpit, I think there will only be a change when the pulpit becomes broken for the sin in the camp as Ezra was.

Amen

How many preachers have dealt with this, on: 2010/11/19 9:39

I love the doctrinal interplay but I try to bring the conversation back to whether preachers are opening the subject of internet porn to their congregations. Knowing that statistically that 50% of the men in church who use the net, 40% of the pastors and 28% of the church going women are using porn.

As pastors are we fiddling while families, marriages, careers and ministries are being destroyed by the tens of thousands or will we talk about it and provide some real solutions including accountability groups and sermons from the pulpit. If we can talk about abortion and provide forgiveness in the church why can't we deal with this subject and offer the same unconditional love while bringing direction? Come on guys

www.safeeyes.com
www.wisechoice.net a no over-ride version of safeeyes
www.hedgebuilders.com
www.xxxchurch.com

How many of you have filters, on: 2010/11/19 10:01

How many of you have filters on your computers at home and the computers in the church??? If not do it today. Guard yourselves and those around you.

Shepherds guard the sheep and the wise shepherd knows he is vulnerable himself...

www.safeeyes.com
www.wisechoice.net a no over-ride version of safeeyes
www.hedgebuilders.com
www.xxxchurch.com

Re: How many of you have filters - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2010/11/19 10:21

I have one, and I tell others too get them as well.

Re: Just provided some Scripture, on: 2010/11/19 10:50

Quote:
-----Just provided some Scripture. You can take it or leave it. Either way.

Yes this technique is often used. What we actually do though, is to provide Scripture that supports our position, and what we are asking in reality is that people "take or leave" our position. Because we are so confident that Scripture supports our position and not the other believer. I think we all can accept the Scriptures that were provided without having to accept someone's position. As staff said it is not as "clear cut" as we would like to tell ourselves, and for the 10 Scriptures that seem to support one position, anyone can find 11 to support the other.

If we are truly interested in the truth, we would look at all Scripture not just the ones that support our individual positions. If we don't we would in fact be guilty of the very thing we accuse others of without realizing it. When we approach Scripture with a biased position, we will readily see all the Scriptures that propose to support that position. If we approach Scripture, emptying ourselves of any biases, we will get but a glimpse of God's whole counsel and realize that

"Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:12-13

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy," Jude 1:24

Lord open our eyes and help us to see, that our eyes will not be fully open until we see you face to face.

Quote:
-----As pastors are we fiddling while families, marriages, careers and ministries are being destroyed by the tens of thousands or will we talk about it and provide some real solutions including accountability groups and sermons from the pulpit.

Yes Ned, I am in full agreement with you that these things can and need be implemented. I do believe though that as a pre-requisite to these we must be broken about the sin in the church and turn to God in repentance. Both on an individual and a corporate basis. Then we can use these methods of support. Ezra and Daniel and other great men of God in the bible prayed "We have sinned".

Filters are an extremely useful tool, especially in a home where in addition to protecting themselves, parents are seeking to protect their children. I fully support it.

Lord Jesus look upon us in mercy.

Re: having trouble with internet pornography?, on: 2010/11/19 11:02

Job 31:1
I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?

Leviticus 18
17 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter,
neither shalt thou take her son's daughter, or her daughter's daughter, to uncover her nakedness;
they her near kinswomen:
it wickedness.

18 Neither shalt thou take a wife to her sister, TO VEX , to uncover her nakedness, beside the other in her life .

Two sermons by Carter Conlon may offer further perspective. He specifically mentions, in his context, internet pornography in

Reprobates and Trembling Nations (Nov 2007)

<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid=15987>

The Image of God (Oct 2007)

<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid=16013>

(Between these two sermons, Carter Conlon spoke at the first Sermonindex Revival Conference in Ohio - Let me not See my Wretchedness - and preached Beware of the Angry Watchmen the Sunday following the conference.)

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2010/11/19 13:15

"If we are truly interested in the truth, we would look at all Scripture not just the ones that support our individual positions. If we don't we would in fact be guilty of the very thing we accuse others of without realizing it. When we approach scripture with a biased position, we will readily see all the Scriptures that propose to support that position. If we approach Scripture, emptying ourselves of any biases, we will get but a glimpse of God's whole counsel and realize that "Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."

Brother, I agree with you that many times we are blinded by our own opinions and bias, and out of this comes division and strife.

I am seeing this many times on these forums. Two brothers debating on a subject and taking different positions and both of them having a part of the truth. If we would come before God with a teachable spirit knowing that we don't know anything as we ought to and allow the Holy Spirit to teach us then we would see as God sees and would let go of our own personal biases.

The Body of Christ is a diverse Body. It is a many membered Body, and the Lord wants us to see the whole Body, and that each and every member is important and needs to function to the building up of the Body of Christ.

The pornography issue in the Church today is a serious problem, and it is wise to take measures such as filters to avoid temptation, but we need to be free from the tyranny of self and the flesh. Only the blood of Jesus can wash away our sin. Only the cross of Christ can crucify the affections and lusts of the flesh. Only knowing our authority in the Lord Jesus Christ and taking that authority over all of the works of the devil in our lives will we be free. We must know the power and authority that has been given to us in the name that is above every name. The name of Jesus is far above all principality and power and every name that is named. "In my name, you shall cast out demons." (Mark 16:17).

Mike

Re: - posted by Renoncer, on: 2010/11/19 14:32

When I noticed that people were beginning to argue over the issue of whether or not someone can lose his salvation, I thought to myself, "What does that have to do with fighting against sexual immorality?" But, when I read AbideinHim's last post, I realized that the two are connected in a very intimate way.

What makes us treat others harshly? What causes sexual immorality? What causes dissensions, hatred, discord, and factions? What causes fights and quarrels among us? Don't these things come from our sinful desires that battle within us? We want something but don't get it. So we kill and covet. What do you think it means that God yearns jealously for the spirit that He has made to dwell in us? Is this truth without purpose?

What is the answer? Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, you double-minded. Realize your misery, mourn, and weep. Turn your laughter to mourning, and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves under God's mighty hand, and He will lift you up. For God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

We are fighting against sin. We can only really put it to death by faith using the sword of the Spirit. Apart from Christ, we can do nothing of the sort. The problem is sin. The answer is Christ. In this case, the sin is sexual immorality; the victory is self-control.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. (Matthew 5:3-9)

they will know we are christians by our love, on: 2010/11/19 15:30

Thanks to the more recent posters who have reminded of the fruit of the spirit. Indeed there is a quickness among some of us to remind us how quickly we are going to go to hell because of our transgressions. I am reminded of the Lord exhorting the disciples to pluck the beam from their eye before looking for the speck in their brothers' eye. And "let the first among you without sin cast the first stone"...

There are a lot of stones being cast by a lot of folks with beams in their eyes.....to use their own words:"repent"

how will you respond?, on: 2010/11/19 15:43

There have been over 1300 views of this discussion thread. Assuming that each of these is an individual (probably not the case) then 650 of us have been accessing internet pornography today...perhaps between watching these posts.

We have heard from some folks that we are slime, filthy scumbuckets and without Christ we are...but we have also been accepted into the beloved if we have received Him.

Watching internet porn is a sin on so many levels and all of us know it. The law is written on our hearts. We need to know what to do. First determine to turn away from it. Now that you have done that then put legs to it. Today...now..not tonight...install a filter on your computer, call your best friend and ask him to be your accountability partner and set him up to get notifications if you slip (that's AA talk for "sobriety losing it's priority" SLIP).

Filtering is cheap usually less than \$50 per year for up to three computers. The new filters are accurate, will not over block and they may help to save your life or your ministry.. Have we not all heard of or known strong ministries being destroyed by internet pornography. Let' not allow that to happen to us...

Do it now, please my brothers....

www.safeeyes.com
www.wisechoice.net which is a no override version of safeeyes
www.hedgebuilders.org
www.xxxchurch.com

Re: how will you respond? - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2010/11/19 16:03

how will you respond?

There have been over 1300 views of this discussion thread. Assuming that each of these is an individual (probably not the case) then 650 of us have been accessing internet pornography today...perhaps between watching these posts.

I think personally this thread should be shut down because of two things, some seem to be stereotyping because of views, and another thing is, my 15 year old son that is also a member here, just ask me why do they allow threads like this. I just told him, I don't know son, but an open forum on a Christian website is not the place, we both agreed. So carry on with the assumptions, and don't forget a lot of the views are probably picked up from someone actually searching on Google or another search engine for internet pornography, and it sends them here just because of one word, "pornography".

Re: beloved....., on: 2010/11/19 16:26

What is off color in these conversations? You can be sure that every 15 year old on the net in America is aware of this issue.....furthermore if someone were to find this discussion while they were searching for pornography on google then they might just get saved!!!

This is a conversation that has been swept under the ecclesiastical rug for long enough! It slaps us in the face daily and we merely look the other way...

by the way, do you have filters on your computers?

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www.wisechoice.net which is a no override version of safeeyes
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www.xxxchurch.com

Re: , on: 2010/11/19 17:56

There is not a man using the internet that hasn't taken a peek, if your not one of them, then your the mi-nute minority.

It's such a private matter that one would blush to even admit that one has looked at this stuff. So don't expect a hoard of people crashing in on this thread willing to blurt out their secret. I find the ones that you'd least expect would have this kind of trouble.

Prayer never helps. It really doesn't. Because you pray and still have this stuff on your mind. What does work and this is the only thing that does work is having an insatiable love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

There is just no way that you can be in love with Jesus and be in love with something else. Either we'd hate one or love the other or vice versa. I am talking about having a single eye.

We can't love God and live in sin, it's just not possible.

That doesn't mean we should condemn ourselves, not at all. Dealing with self can be a long time project and the most important thing that we should know is that He loves us. Over time as His word becomes more established in our hearts and self becomes less and less, we'll have learned to love Him the right way.

Re: having trouble with internet pornography?, on: 2010/11/19 18:06

askned commented

Quote:
-----There have been over 1300 views of this discussion thread. Assuming that each of these is an individual (probably not the case) then 650 of us have been accessing internet pornography today...perhaps between watching these posts.

What is more likely, perhaps, is that over the 6 pages of 9 posts per page, the regular 50 - 60 SI readers will have dipped in and out of the thread when they get a chance.

To suggest that at least half of us have been looking at internet porn between other tasks, is, I believe, unfair and unwarranted, regardless of past or present struggles.

statistics, on: 2010/11/19 19:49

I am sorry but the statistics, just like the numbers for divorce in the church, are identical with the world. 50% of the christian men on the net according to surveys by a wide range of evangelical sources are using internet pornography, yet almost all of them think they are the only one because the subject is so taboo....if nothing else then this thread which is now approaching 1500 views has got somebody's attention.

Beloved, this is so common and can be managed if we will just fess up and deal with it...come on...

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www.wisechoice.net a no over ride version of safeeyes
www.hedgebuilders.com
www.xxxchurch.com

Re: having trouble with internet pornography?, on: 2010/11/19 20:21

Brother askned,

Every time someone has confessed to this problem on SI, they have been made to feel so bad they have not showed their username again by posting. Maybe they've chosen a new username, but some of them had a real roasting first, in amongst the other supportive posts.

I don't think you can turn up as a stranger out of the blue, and expect to receive our confessions, no matter how enthusiastic you are, and for all the 'right' reasons. As MrBillPro indicated, that may not be a bad thing.

I am passionate about healing. But many people would rather keep their pain, and all that goes with it, than risk being made whole, and have God expect them to become effective witnesses for Him.

The word of God is a double-edged sword.

Re: statistics, on: 2010/11/19 20:27

bump

agenda, on: 2010/11/19 20:53

What an amazing comment that when ever someone confesses to a problem with this issue that they are made to feel so bad that they change their username....if this is true it is an indictment of this Christian community.....those who would cast stones need to examine themselves and shut their mouths.....do I hear an Amen in the congregation?

Secondly...when some stranger comes in and begins talking about this subject.....I am a born again Spirit filled Christian and by definition no stranger. If you find error in my statement then please point it out and I will be the better for it if it is true.

An agenda? Absolutely, I have an agenda, a passionate agenda that this scourge on the body of Christ, Internet pornography be exposed and dealt with by the shepherds in the flock. It has been swept under the rug while the lives of their flocks have been devastated. If you look way back in this thread you will hear my story with internet porn and my relationship with internet filtering...yes I have an agenda but it is not hidden.

Evangelicals talk about preachers thundering from the pulpit separating bone from the marrow with the sword of truth...yet the silence is uncanny...come on!

You know it took years for the church to become activated on the subject of abortion but finally, finally, finally it took a stand. The church took a stand with fire and with mercy to the women who fell into abortion. It is time to do the same thing -take a stand and have mercy to the MILLIONS of men and women in the church that have fallen. Let's come along side and stop pretending that it doesn't happen to Christians...

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Re: agenda - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2010/11/19 21:48

Dear friend, please pray for wisdom on this topic.

We must not be ignorant of Satan's devices. If you take a person who has recently been born-again and saved from the grip of alcohol abuse, and start reminding him daily about the ungodly pull and power of beer and wine, he or she will soon find themselves thinking about drinking.

This same thing happens when you mention the pull and ungodliness of pornography over and over again to someone who has been struggling with the sin. It has a reverse effect. It actually causes them to think about it, and just seeing the word "porn" and what it represents can suddenly conjure images they would rather not experience.

Paul told Timothy to plainly "flee youthful lusts" (2 Tim. 2:22), and never went on a "fleeing youthful lust crusade" dedicated solely to sexual sin. Not even with the sexually-reprobate Corinthian believers did he do this. In Paul's epistles there was never an agenda exclusively focusing on one particular sin. Nor is there any evidence of such in the other apostles' writings or ministries.

I think we can go off-course and actually give the devil firepower when we do these types of things. I ask you to please pray and consider these thoughts before continuing on in this thread.

Re: agenda - posted by Renoncer, on: 2010/11/19 22:04

Asked,

I agree that sexual immorality has to be dealt with, and that people should be graciously helped and not condemned when they come for help.

Moreover, I think internet filters are a good idea.

BUT...

The problem is still SIN. The solution is still CHRIST. Internet filters will never take away the root of the sin, which is in the heart. Your testimony doesn't even mention the name of Jesus, or the power of the Holy Spirit, or victory in Christ, or the regenerating power of God; you just talk about internet filters as though you were selling a product that is nothing more than self-help damage-control:

"I don't understand why there is so little direct addressing of the issue of internet porn in the church. As pastors you know that the church is loaded with it as are the pastors. Everyday Pastors and parishioners alike are losing their ministries, the marriages and their reputations to this but still no one will discuss it in the pulpit in any meaningful way. I had issues with internet porn and finally found that there are ways to put a wall around myself as well as add accountability support which has kept me clean from it. A large number of ministers (estimated at 40% of ministers who access the internet) and estimated half of the men in the congregations are using it yet little is said. This is an 800 pound gorilla in the room. There are many ways of approaching this issue...is anyone interested? Blessings- Ned"

Satan doesn't want people to know about the victory that Christ offers. He wants them to "manage" the problem of sin, but still be slaves to their depravity and on their way to hell. I am taking a stand against the lies of the devil.

The truth is that Jesus Christ has come to set you free from your sins (Matthew 1:21). The truth is that the Holy Spirit is greater than the devil (1John 4:4). The truth is that if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away and all things have become new (2Corinthians 5:17). The truth is that either you are a slave to sin, or you are a slave to righteousness (Romans 6:18). The truth is that God's commands are not burdensome for those who have been born of God, because they have overcome the world by faith in Christ Jesus (1John 5:3-4). The truth is that although no one is perfect on this earth, the Holy Spirit in us sanctifies us and gives us strength to put these sins to death (Romans 8:13-14).

And I want all men and women to know the truth, for the truth will set them free! (John 8:32)

If anyone comes to me broken because of this sin (and people have done so), I do not condemn them, nor do I patch up their problem. I give them the truth that will set them free. I teach them to use their sword. I pray with them. I point to Christ. I tell them that there is hope, and that hope is in Christ, and in Christ alone.

May He receive all glory due His Name, for He is mighty to save! Even from pornography! Come on! Do you really think that Christ can save you from eternal hell, but not from pornography? Come on!

Re: Can Christ deliver from pornography?, on: 2010/11/19 22:45

Of course He can and does deliver from pornography. I am closely associated with a person who was instantly delivered from chronic alcoholism and cocaine addiction as they came to the Lord. Yet I also know many many more who are being delivered from their addiction through Christian programs such as Celebrate Recovery. They do this by accountability to others and the constant reminder of the destruction that their lifestyle has wrought in their lives.

The reminder of internet pornography isn't the problem, the problem is the fallen nature of mankind AND in a more practical sense the easy access of internet porn.

I am 61 years old and been a christian for 26 years, a missionary, an elder and an evangelist and had no sense of the pull of pornography until I was assaulted with the constant imagery available on the net. Though I am Spirit filled and Baptised in the Spirit I was overwhelmed with the hidden character flaw. God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit was kind enough to show me filtering and accountability to provide me with a way to resist when I was unable to resist in my own strength. Could He have delivered me- of course...did He choose to do so?-no. He showed me another way and He showed me that I

was to offer this to others.

Is there something wrong with this???? I don't think so. Guard yourselves.

Remember the story about the man in the canoe without a paddle heading for the waterfall...help me he cried. A man swam out with a paddle to his canoe-he said no thanks, God will rescue me, another came with a boat and a rope to tow him to safety yet he refused, saying God will rescue me, then a helicopter came and offered Help and still the same reply. The man and his canoe went over the falls and he was drowned. When he was faced to face with God he asked, why did you not rescue me? God replied...I sent you a man with a paddle, another with a boat and rope and finally I sent you a helicopter..... Today he is sending you a filtering system and accountability reporting...come on!!!!!!

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Re: - posted by MyVeryHeart (), on: 2010/11/19 22:48

Quote:
-----... and finally found that there are ways to put a wall around myself...

"For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her."
Zechariah 2:5

The Lord himself is a better wall than any man made wall. To him be all the Glory! Glory to the Lord Jesus Christ! He is mighty to save!

Re: amen, on: 2010/11/19 22:49

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon meto set the captive free"

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Re: - posted by MyVeryHeart (), on: 2010/11/19 22:51

Quote:
-----Is there something wrong with this???? I don't think so. Guard yourselves

"Little children, guard yourselves from idols." 1 John 5:21

Amen and Amen!, on: 2010/11/19 23:03

Amen and Amen!!

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Re: Re: Can Christ deliver from pornography? - posted by Renoncer, on: 2010/11/19 23:17

Asked,

Here is why I am extremely skeptical:

1) You claim that you are "Baptised in the Spirit" and yet "unable to resist" this sin...

There's something awfully wrong here. (1John4:4, 1John5:4)

2) Moreover, you are proposing "another way"...

This is dangerous doctrine, to say the least.

3) In addition, your analogy is unbiblical. If God sends someone to help you, that person won't tell you that Christ can't save you but that a filtering system can! A messenger from God will point to Christ for victory, regardless of the instruments he uses.

4) Thus far, you have only argued against Scripture. You have replied with bitter venom against posts that were filled with the Word of God.

And here is what you are trying to sell: "You don't have the power to overcome sin, and neither will Jesus help you. So, you need to accept the fact that this sin is stronger than you are, and just put a superficial wall around you, so that your deadly sinful passions will not flare up on the computer. Just 50\$ a year. You know you can't make it anyways, right? Just give up on Christ."

God is not in this marketing scheme. The Spirit of God points to Christ. You don't speak much of that victory in Christ. In fact, you deny that victory. You falsely say that temptation is greater than what you can bear, which is contrary to the truth that could set people free (1Corinthians 10:13).

I beg with you to consider the problem with your proposal. I am saying this out of love for you, and out of love for the brethren on this forum. I am not against internet filters, except when they cover up evil and turn people away from Jesus Christ.

Re: - posted by Renoncer, on: 2010/11/19 23:41

Tonight, I am going to bed, not having watched pornography. And why did I not watch pornography?

1) Is it because I was not tempted? No.

2) Is it because a filtering system is keeping me from accessing these websites? No.

3) Is it because someone is watching me and I am afraid of that person finding out? No.

4) Is it because I am stronger than other men? No.

It is because Jesus Christ has saved me. It is because I have received the seal of the Holy Spirit in me, having been born of God, and the mighty Spirit of God has poured the love of Christ in my heart. It is because Christ lives in me. It is because God is mighty to save! And if I am tempted, I will hold on to God's promises, because His promises are true and worthy to be trusted! He has said that He would set me free from slavery to sin; Jesus came to destroy the devil's works. I am free! (Ephesians 1:19-23, Romans 6:18, 2Corinthians 3:17-18, Galatians 5:1, 1Peter 2:16, 1John 3:8, Psalm 28:8)

Oh, praise the Lord, all you his people! Praise His holy Name! Be strong and courageous! Hold on to the Word of Christ, for God will be with you. He will never leave you nor forsake you. Turn to Him for strength! Turn to Him for deliverance!

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Judging my spritual condition??, on: 2010/11/19 23:48

Are you without sin???? If not why not? Please answer me...are you without sin?

Re: sleep well, on: 2010/11/19 23:58

Boy you guys are difficult to love, keep that judgement coming... But I ask....do you ever fail to hit the mark? Do you ever experience fear? Do you experience sickness? It's all sin or due to sin. Right? So you do sin do you???

Come on you guys....we all turn to God for deliverance and it comes in His time...sometimes with death of this body and not before...

I seem to be committing some kind of crime. I have stated forcefully that the Church has and has ignored a screaming, scarlet sin and have suggested a way to deal with this. I don't care if you preach filtering or not but I do care if you fail to address the issue of Internet Pornography as Satan and the flesh uses it to savage the body of Christ..... the issue of "blind guides" comes to mind.

For those who have ears to hear let them hear

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Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2010/11/20 0:31

Quote:

-----I don't care if you preach filtering or not but I do care if you fail to address the issue of Internet Pornography as Satan and the flesh uses it to savage the body of Christ..... the issue of "blind guides" comes to mind.

I think it's time to say goodnight. Everything needed to be said has been said. You are asked to not create another thread on this topic. Thank you.

Paul

Re: - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2010/11/20 0:39

I think the overwhelming majority of brothers on this thread have clearly, with articulate testimony, and biblical wisdom, shared how Jesus is the one who delivers from wickedness. You asked for our opinion on what we are doing, and we are sharing about our deliverance and you have just called it "preaching."

I think if you are going to come into a room of mechanics, who are all A.S.E. certified and ask them for advice on how to fix your ping engine, and they all unanimously tell you that you need to replace the whole thing, and you resent the advice and go over to the International House of Pancakes and pour syrup into the engine, well...I guess that is your prerogative.

I used to try to use filters for sanctification...but they NEVER got rid of the lust in my heart, the only good they serve in my opinion is as a buffer of protection to prevent unwanted temptation. It was not until I completely trusted in the work of the cross, that I was delivered from my sin. I now hate it with a vengeance. I now have a covenant with my eyes, so that when I know that no one even knows but the Lord, and something tempting comes before me, I avert mine eyes and I turn to gratitude and prayer. This has been a consistent theme in my life for many many years now. This is not exaggerative, and I boast in nothing but the cross and its radical power.

If you truly truly want to use a biblical form of aestheticism that Jesus advocated, and to my knowledge, very few ever have. Then chop off your hand and gouge out your eyes, for it is better to enter heaven without them than to go into hell with them.

The pharisees kept asking the blind man how he got healed, and who healed him. All the blind man could say was..."I was blind but now I see."

It seems to me as if you are not willing to listen to the eyewitness testimony from many brothers, and you depreciate the cross.

Now for a few Scriptures. As one of the moderators has requested discretion in how this is discussed.

"Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done in secret." -Ephesians 5:11-12 Our brother Paul has correctly stated that great caution should be used in how this topic is handled. In other words avoid the explicit at all costs. It is disgusting, it should not be directly discussed, but rather laterally.

"Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference; And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh." -Jude 21-23

In other words, handle fleshly topics like this one with a pair of biblical tongs. Pinch your nose, avert your eyes, and exercise great caution knowing that even the mere mentioning of it can cause great temptation. Focusing on the sin, and responding to it with carnal measures will never help anyone.

"For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ." Certain men have crept into the church teaching that you can be a christian and can also be lascivious. And they deny Jesus Christ. In another passage it says, "They have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof."

I also agree with Renouncer, your example is un-biblical and not helpful.

Here is how you get help from God as Galatians points out. This is completely my paraphrase into simple language.

One...recognize your sin for what it is. Call it what it is. Lust! That is what the Bible calls it.

Two...Confess it to God. Admit your failure. God only gives grace to the humble, he becomes the enemy of those who think they can solve sin on their own, the prideful ones. (Additional paraphrase help from the book of James.)

Three...place your faith in Him to deliver you. Confess your great need for his Spirit to deliver you, and he will perfect you. Never, above ALL Things, never excuse your sin. Do not even give it a sliver of day light, shake not its hand. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Four...do not return to the beggarly elements of the law which always included all sorts of external reform.

Five...continue to walk in the Spirit and you WILL NOT fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Six...continue to walk in faith and do not lapse.

Seven...become crucified to the world, and crucify the world to yourself and walk in that.

This is freedom. This is how the just "live" by faith, as Galatians points out.

I appreciate your zeal, I appreciate your passion, but Appolos also had passion and zeal that needed to be re-directed to New Covenant life. Please consider the advice you have been given here. I plead with you out of love to just preach the gospel message of deliverance from sin. That is the gospel.