

III. HOW SHOULD A CHRISTIAN REACT WHEN HE IS CONFRONTED WITH PORNOGRAPHY?

when we're confronted with porn...

A. WE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND CERTAIN PRINCIPLES REGARDING SIN

1. Oftentimes people have a tendency to accept certain practices because they are condoned by the world's standards and have become common-place. But the Bible has much to say about nudity and lust and just because the world accepts a practice doesn't make it right. Notice what Matt. 5:27,28 says.
2. Oftentimes people adopt the notion that certain practices are acceptable because of the number of individuals involved. But it doesn't matter if it's one or one trillion it doesn't make something right if it is contrary to what the Word of God teaches. Notice in Noah's day virtually the whole world had corrupted itself (Gen. 6:5,11,12). Millions were also involved in the Nazi anti-Semitic practices to annihilate the Jews.

B. WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF HOW PORNOGRAPHY CAN LEAD TO SINFUL ACTIONS

1. Pornography appeals to our natural God-given fleshy desires that should be restricted to the marriage relationship. (Prov. 5:15-19; Heb. 13:4).
2. Pornography tempts us through the "eye gate" to look with lustful desires which arouses our passions and can constitute adultery in our hearts (I Jn. 2:16; Matt. 5:28). It calls for us to fulfill God-given desires in a God - forbidden way.
3. Pornography causes individuals who delve in it to fantasize about others and oftentimes it leads to obsessive behavior and an improper demoralization of others of the opposite sex. It often comes down to viewing someone sexually as a so-called "Hottie or hunk" instead of a whole person with far more value than mere physical value. Notice how Christians are to regard one another (I Tim. 5:2).
4. Pornography can feed the flesh or the desires of our fallen sin nature and become addictive as any other sin. Those who get involved in pornography have to have more and more to satisfy their cravings. As a result, it takes control of their thought-life and begins to affect their behavior toward members of the opposite sex. Notice what the Bible says about these things (I Pet. 4:1-3; II Pet. 2:14,19; I Cor. 6:12).
5. Pornography, if unchecked, can lead to overt acts of fornication, adultery, rape and all manner of unclean and inappropriate conduct. Investigations in the lives of perpetrators of violent crimes has repeatedly shown a history which started out with pornography then led to rape or adultery and sometimes murder. This proved to be the case with Scott Peterson.

C. WE SHOULD MAKE A PERSONAL DECISION WHICH WILL RESULT IN SETTING CERTAIN GUIDELINES AND RESTRICTIONS IN OUR LIVES.

1. The need for a personal decision and the benefits of it are illustrated for us in the life of Daniel as well as Job (Dan. 1:8; Job 31:1).
2. Such a decision should no doubt set some restrictions on the programs we view on TV and videos.
3. Such a decision should no doubt set some restrictions of our use of the internet and govern the e-mails we open and the websites we visit. Remember what I Thess. 5:22 says.
4. Such a decision should no doubt set some restrictions on the books and magazines we read.

D. WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET THAT GOD IS OMNISCIENT, SEES OUR EVERY ACT, AND EXHORTS US TO LIVE A CLEAN AND HOLY LIFE.

1. For these reasons we should realize that while we might hide some things from others we cannot hide anything from God (Job. 34:21; Prov. 5:21,22).
2. Because God exhorts us to live clean and holy lives we should understand that how we appear before God is more important than how we appear before men (I Sam. 16:7; Rev. 2:23).
3. Finally the extent to which God will use us is based upon the kind of walk we have with Him (I Thess 4:1-7). God requires clean vessels in His service.