

WORDS OF TRUTH

A Weekly Bulletin for the Sunrise Acres church of Christ

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Sunrise Acres CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meeting at:
8625 Robert Drive
El Paso, TX 79904

915-525-5794

OUR MEETING TIMES:

Sunday Bible Class: 9:45 AM
Sunday Worship: 10:55 AM

Are You Visiting With Us?

If you are visiting with us, we want to welcome you to the Lord's church (Matthew 16:18 and Colossians 1:18). Our goal is to simply get to Heaven and to help you do the same. We use the Bible as our standard to govern what we do in our work and worship for the Lord (Colossians 3:17, II Timothy 1:13, II Timothy 3:16-17, and I Peter 4:11).

We welcome your questions and would love the opportunity to study further with you. Luke recorded a fascinating statement we all need to consider: "Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able" (Luke 13:23-24). We invite you to join us in being one of the few that are saved!

There Is Nothing Good About Pornography

By: *Brian A. Yeager*

As Solomon said, "there is no new thing under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9). Lust is not a new subject we must deal with. Sin entered into this world because Eve saw something pleasant unto the eyes (Genesis 3:6). We can see through the Scriptures that viewing someone in the nude can cause us to lose our self-control and do many sinful things like lying, conspiracy, and murder (II Samuel 11). When Amnon lusted after his sister Tamar we see deception, rape, hatred, and revenge (II Samuel 13).

In continuation of the thoughts above, consider what the Lord had Solomon write concerning the power of lust and the results that follow: "For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. **Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids. For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life. Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent. Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house. But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul. A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away. For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts"** (Proverbs 6:23-35).

Yet, even with common sense and Biblical warnings, some seem to continue to be tempted by pornography. Pornography is readily available in many media formats (magazines, movies, the internet, etc.). One young man once argued: "I just want to look, it doesn't affect me". There is nothing innocent about pornography!

You Cannot Clean Up Pornography To Make It Okay!

Some say, "I want to look, not touch." Others will argue that the human body is beautiful and meant to be on display. Some say it is just a fantasy life and they would never act on those impulses. If you read the Scriptures above about David and Bathsheba (II Samuel 11) you know those are false statements. Furthermore, even if one could look and not be tempted, it is still sinful to be looking. Our Lord said: "*Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That **whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart***" (Matthew 5:27-28). There is no such thing as an innocent look!

Our Lord did not intend the human body to be displayed nude outside of the lawful marriage (Genesis 2:18-24; cf. Hebrews 13:4). Even within the confines of marriage, there is still a need for clothing (Genesis 3:20-21). Modest apparel is instructed in both the Old and New Testaments (Exodus 28:42 and I Timothy 2:9-10). The true beauty of a person lies beneath the skin (I Peter 3:1-5). All the points in this paragraph are severely abused with pornography. Moreover, pornography has become a "sex guide" for many in our society. Sex then loses the foundation of love and is founded then on a basis of lust!

Pornography Has Changed The Beauty Of A Lawful Sexual Relationship

Pornography has taught young people to desire breast implants and a host of other body part reconstructions. Instead of romance and intimacy, sex has become a sport. The Bible hosts a poetic view of the naked body in a sexual relationship (Song of Solomon 4:1-7) while the pornography industry has made sex about multiple partners, fake bodies, etc. Instead of a man's wife being the desire of his eye (Ezekiel 24:16-18), pornography has men wishing their wives looked like those plastic women and women lusting for their men to look like those in the porn industry. Notice God's instructions: "*Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love*" (Proverbs 5:18-19).

God's design is that marriage is to be the place wherein our sexual desires are fulfilled. Notice: "*Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency*" (I Corinthians 7:1-5).

Marriages will fail when the desires of men and women stretch beyond their mates. The beauty of a moral woman (Proverbs 12:4; 31:10-31) and a godly man (Ephesians 5:22-33 and I Timothy 6:11) are lost when we view relationships in the meat market of pornography. We MUST avoid those worldly lusts (Romans 13:14, Galatians 5:16; 24, and Titus 2:11-12).

Conclusion

Pornography is sinful and leads to other sins as well. These are not the things we should be seeing or thinking about (Job 31:1-8, Proverbs 4:23-27, Matthew 26:41, Romans 12:2; 9, and I Corinthians 15:33). In conclusion, consider Paul's inspired words concerning what we should think about: "*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things*" (Philippians 4:8). Could you put pornography into that passage? NO!

What must one do to be saved (Acts 2:37)? Hear and believe the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16 & Romans 10:17), repent of their sins (Acts 3:19), confess Christ (Acts 8:37), and be baptized (immersed) for the remission of sins into the church of Christ (Acts 2:38-41; 47, I Corinthians 12:12-13, and Romans 6:1-6; 16:16). One must then remain faithful (Colossians 1:23).