

Family Legacy Institute

Tools For Families Building Godly Legacies

Pornography ~ The “Victimless Crime”

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[This article is the result of a lecture I filmed with the St. Louis Roman Catholic Archdiocese, for their “*As For Me And My House*” ministry. After returning home from the taping I was led to flesh out my notes and put the lecture into written format. This is that lecture.]

There’s a section in the Bible which essentially says that if a nation obeys God, He will bless that nation; but if a nation ignores and disobeys God, He will withdraw His blessings and that nation will suffer (see Leviticus 26:1-46).

The United States of America was once broadly known as a Christian nation. Today we are not. In the last 50 years we have put faith on the back burner and have cut ourselves adrift from the Source of wisdom and cultural stability (God). Just as scripture promises, when a nation turns away from serving God, things go badly. Symptoms begin to emerge, like brush strokes in an impressionist painting by Monet, van Gogh, or Renoir:

- A consistent 50% divorce rate
- 40+% of our children now born out of wedlock
- 26% of our nation’s girls 13-19 carry at least one STD
- 25% of our nation’s adults have genital Herpes
- Suicide now the third leading killer of our nation’s adolescents
- 85% of youths in prisons come from homes with no dads

Those are vignettes of what happens when a culture cuts itself off from a relationship with its Creator.

Another very telling brush stroke has been the acceptance of pornography as “normal.” In the late 1950s when Hugh Hefner launched *Playboy*, most people called it a “dirty magazine.” Back then *Playboy* pictures were of women wearing provocative underwear, but no sexual body parts were actually shown. Today, *Playboy*’s nudity is tame in comparison to what’s available for free on the Internet ~ e.g., actual filming of intercourse, oral sex, homosexual sex, bestiality, masturbation, child rape, sexual torture.

It is becoming all but commonplace to hear of leaders losing their jobs and/or being arrested in regard to their use of pornography. Here are three examples taken off the Internet on the day this chapter was written (5/22/2010). The date is incidental ~ it could be *any* day, and there are hundreds more similar examples *any* of which could have happened in *any* town or city in the USA:

- April 23, 2010 the news broke of top SEC officials spending eight hours a day looking at porn while the nation teetered on the brink of economic disaster.¹
- May 1, 2010, the mayor of the small southwest Missouri town of Dadeville is charged with possessing child pornography.²
- May 7, 2010, an army lieutenant-colonel was arrested for possessing child porn.³

Perhaps *most* symptomatic of the deterioration in our culture is that nobody's marching in the streets, protesting. We've passively accepted what was formerly called "debauchery" as merely being "something men and women do" ~ sort of like drinking milk but with a shot of whiskey.

This phenomenon has an age-specific dynamic to it. People born before 1960 are generally deeply concerned about the moral drift exhibited by cultural acceptance of pornography. People born after 1980 generally accept porn as a normal (if not very savory) component of a pluralistic society. In the 1960s, if a person wished to see a naked breast in a movie, they had to go to one of those sleazy theaters found in the cruddy parts of big cities, playing the raunchiest trash in town ~ and hope nobody saw them enter or leave the theater. Today unless we *try to avoid* it, we commonly see far more sexual stuff on the TV in the privacy of our kitchen or bedroom.

We've been lured into a belief system that calls pornography, a "victimless crime." Person after person who is caught and punished due to porn, expresses the thought, "I wasn't hurting anyone." The remainder of this chapter will explore this "victimless crime" and its impact upon families and culture. To say porn is victimless is like comparing hydrogen bombs with party-pops. Here, then, is a look at the impact of pornography use upon all family members.

In children:

Pornography sexually awakens children before their brains are prepared for the adult rigors and challenges of sexuality. When my grandson, Jake was seven years old he brought a book home from the library, dealing with world records: fastest train; tallest man; most miles hopped on a pogo stick. One of the records was the woman with the largest chest. This female had undergone surgeries that stuffed her bosom with sand bags (OK, not really) to the point that her bust measurement was the equivalent of the distance from New York to Miami. Jake didn't spend much time looking at this freak, but his comment was, "Why is that woman sticking her breasts out like that?"

He was unaware of the lust that filled the hearts of some men as they looked at the same picture. He was just a kid. So we moved on to the next page and then later I mentioned that some women do that sort of thing to themselves in order to make men desire them. Thankfully, that was the end of the conversation.

Many a child has found his dad's stash of porn and then spent hours furtively looking at naked women, or worse. When this happens, the child's sexuality is prematurely awakened, long before the pre-frontal cortex has matured sufficiently to provide wisdom and stability. This creates children who become inappropriately sexual early in life ~ children who become addicted to pornography ~ children who grow up unable to enjoy normal heterosexual activity with a

spouse because their brains have been so jaded as to make normalcy impossible ~ children unable to have normal healthy adult relationships.

Porn distorts children's understanding of sex. It normalizes sexual activity that basically does not exist outside of porn filming studios. It turns God's beautiful gift of sex into a performance ethic that bears virtually no resemblance to gentle, normal marital love-making. It separates bonding, commitment and love from sex.