

# Family Legacy Institute

Tools For Families Building Godly Legacies

## Biblical Sexuality, Part I

### Pornography: A Cancer Killing Families, Churches and Culture

#### A Bible Study for *Mature* Christ-followers

-By Dr. John P. Splinter

This Bible study will explore how Christians can protect their children and their marriages by 1) understanding the grave consequences of Internet pornography, and 2) using God's Word and wisdom to overcome the sexual tactics Satan is using in our culture today. In this series, the NIV translation will be used unless otherwise specified.

Imagine walking alone at night on a city street and suddenly being confronted by a gang of 10 armed youths. You look for a way out but there is none. You realize that you are completely surrounded. You will now become the victim of these youths' sinful intentions, whatever they may be ~ robbery ~ assault ~ whatever.

Now change the analogy. You are at home on your computer. Or reading a magazine. Or watching primetime TV. Or walking past a Victoria's Secret shop in the mall. Your daughter is texting with someone she doesn't know. Your son is doing something on the Internet. Your husband is browsing the *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit edition. You realize that you and your family are completely surrounded ~ by sexuality ~ there is no way out. That is our culture today.

This Bible study, and the seven that follow, are aimed at taking God's Word into an area that the church has been loathe to go in the last 2,000 years ~ the area of biblical sexuality. The sexualization of our culture has become a many-headed Hydra overwhelming us today. The Hydra was a Greek mythological poisonous snake-like critter with nine heads. If you chopped off one of its heads, two grew back. Heracles was the only character who could stand up to it and kill it. Here's the point: If the church doesn't stand up and face this Hydra then nobody else can, or will.

This study will be challenging for many Christians to read, because we will be looking straight at the Western church, and its weakness and fear in the face of the Hydra of cultural sexualization. Understand that we are not intending to be critical of Christ, or of the Body of Christ, but we are intending to point out how the local church has hidden itself from this battle, and we are calling

Christ-followers to strip off any sin that controls them, armor-up in the power of Christ, and then join in this battle.

Before you begin reading, take a moment, clear your mind, ask the Lord to open your eyes to His truth, and remind your soul of your unyielding commitment to Jesus Christ. OK ~ ready? Dive in.

We begin with a trip down memory lane. A few motion pictures in the early 1900s could have been termed “slightly naughty,” with suggestive scenes or racy dialogue. By the mid-thirties many moviegoers thought Hollywood had gone too far. Protests led by Catholics prompted the establishment of the Breen Office to delete offensive words and images. In 1939, viewers were shocked when Clark Gable uttered the word “damn” in *“Gone with the Wind.”* Two-thirds of a century later, anything goes ~ full frontal nudity ~ rape ~ homosexuality ~ kiddie porn ~ you name it. In today’s world, pornographic sexuality comes at us like snowflakes in a blizzard. You no longer have to look for it to find it. It hunts you down.

Each lesson in this Bible study series will be based upon scripture. In this first lesson we’re going to begin by pondering teaching from the apostle Paul. He lived in a morally deteriorating culture, and wrote about it. *“...Although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man.... (Rom. 1:21-23).* We could add, “and women.” Consider this: Pornography, as is all sexual sin, is actually a form of idolatry.

Movies, magazines, books, television, DVD’s, the Internet – we live today in a sex-drenched society that corrupts our youth, destroys marriages and leads to a host of pathologies this nation cannot survive. Researchers find that our kids today receive something in the area of 14,000 sexualized messages per year. Ruth Graham once said, “If God doesn’t punish the USA, He’ll have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.”

St. Paul continues, *“Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator-who is forever praised. Amen.” (Rom. 1:24-25).*

What happens when God gives a culture over to degrading activities? Well, in this lesson we’re focusing on the single Hydra head of pornography. Here are a few dynamics that go hand in hand with pornography. Each of these reflects what happens when God gives a culture over to its sinful sexual desires, as seen within creation and distribution of pornography.

- It demeans, disgraces and degrades women.
- It turns human beings created in the image of God, into mere sexual objects.
- It is narcissistic ~ *always* focuses upon oneself ~ turns sexuality into self-gratification.
- It is addictive ~ as addictive as cocaine or heroin.
- It causes shame, which leads to hiding one’s real self from others.
- It destroys trust.
- It brings other sins with it, including dishonesty and loss of integrity.
- It creates bio-chemical changes and alters blood flow patterns in the brain....