

HIDDEN WOUNDS
“The Gift – A Call To Commit To Sexual Purity”
May 18, 2008

“God blessed them: `Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth!’ . . . God looked over everything He had made; it was so good, so very good!” (Gen. 1:28a, 31a, MSG).

A. REASONS PEOPLE STRUGGLE WITH THEIR SEXUALITY

1. They base their self-esteem on whether or not their body is attractive physically.
2. They are in an inappropriate sexual relationship.
3. They were sexually abused or molested as a child or raped.
4. They are trying to escape into romantic fantasies through novels and etc.
5. They have developed addictive patterns of behavior such as addiction to pornography.

“Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. ²For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. ³It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality” (1 Thessalonians 4:1-3, NIV).

- † Sexual immorality is any intimate sexual encounter apart from one's marriage spouse.
- † The terms “sexual immorality” come from the Greek word [πορνεία, porneia], and it is used 25 times in the New Testament. It is where we get our English word – porn and pornography.

B. WHY WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT PORNOGRAPHY

1. It is a **SIN** problem in two primary ways: viewing it and judging those who view it.
2. It is a **CHURCH** problem. \$97 billion were spent last year worldwide on porn and of that \$97 billion, \$13.3 billion was spent in the USA on porn. Over 53% of active churchgoers and pastors confess to looking at Internet porn.

Jesus said, “The time is coming when everything that is covered up will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all. ³Whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be shouted from the housetops for all to hear!” (Luke 12:2-3, NLT).

C. HOW DO WE DEAL WITH PORNOGRAPHY AND SEXUAL DESIRES?

1. _____ God's design for sex.

“Is it a good thing to have sexual relations? ²Certainly – but only within a certain context. It's good for a man to have a wife, and for a woman to have a husband. Sexual drives are strong, but marriage is strong enough to contain them and provide for a balanced and fulfilling sexual life in a world of sexual disorder” (1 Cor. 7:1-3, MSG).

“Theirs is more to sex than skin on skin. Sex is as much a spiritual mystery as a physical fact” (1 Cor. 6:16, MSG).

“Run away from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does” (1 Cor. 6:16, NLT).

“There is a sense in which sexual sins are different from all others. In sexual sin we violate the sacredness of our own bodies, these bodies that were made for God-given and God-modeled love, for “becoming one” with another. ¹⁹Or didn't you realize that your body is a sacred place, the place of the Holy Spirit? Don't you see that you can't live however you please, squandering what God paid such a high price for? The physical part of you is not some piece of property belonging to the spiritual part of you. ²⁰God owns the whole works. So let people see God in and through your body” (1 Cor. 6:18-20, MSG).

2. You have to _____.

“But if we confess our sins to Him, He can be depended on to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. And it is perfectly proper for God to do this for us because Christ died to wash away our sins. ¹⁰If we claim we have not sinned, we are lying and calling God a liar, for He says we have sinned” (1 John 1:9-10, TLB).

"You will never succeed in life if you try to hide your sins. Confess them and give them up; then God will show mercy to you" (Proverbs 28:13, TEV).

"Therefore, make it your habit to confess your sins to one another and to pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective" (James 5:16, ISV).

3. Make yourself _____.

"As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend" (Proverbs 27:17, NLT).

"Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. ¹⁰If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, NLT).

"Brothers and sisters, if a person gets trapped by wrongdoing, those of you who are spiritual should help that person turn away from doing wrong. Do it in a gentle way. At the same time watch yourself so that you also are not tempted. "Help carry each other's burdens. In this way you will follow Christ's teachings. For if anyone thinks he is something when he is really nothing, he is only fooling himself. Each of you must examine your own actions. Then you can be proud of your own accomplishments without comparing yourself to others. ⁵Assume your own responsibility." (Galatians 6:1-5, GWT/NLT).

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<http://www.covenanteyes.com/> -- Covenant Eyes

4. Feed your _____ for God rather than for sex through developing the spiritual habits of having a daily quiet time, being in a small group Bible study, memorizing Scripture, reading Christian books, going on mission trips & spiritual retreats and serving in a ministry at church.

Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence" (Matt. 22:27, MSG).

"Run from anything that gives you the evil thoughts that young men often have, but stay close to anything that makes you want to do right" (2 Timothy 2:20, TLB; see Psalm 119:11; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).

5. _____ what you see and hear through the media and your friends.

"Above all else, guard your heart" (Proverbs 4:23, NIV).

Jesus said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness" (Matthew 6:22-23, NIV).

"I will set before my eyes no vile thing" (Psalm 101:3, NIV).

"Do not be misled: bad company corrupts good character" (1 Corinthians 15:33, NIV).

6. If you are dating or married, _____ in that relationship.

"Therefore, never let sin rule your physical body so that you obey its desires. ¹³Never offer any part of your body to sin's power. No part of your body should ever be used to do any ungodly thing. Instead, offer yourselves to God as people who have come back from death and are now alive. Offer all the parts of your body to God. Use them to do everything that God approves of" (Rom. 6:12-13, GWT).

"Be happy, yes, rejoice in the wife of your youth. ¹⁹Let her breasts and tender embrace satisfy you. Let her love alone fill you with delight" (Pr. 5:18-19, TLB).

7. Keep the _____ in mind.

"God wants you to be holy and completely free from sexual immorality . . . In this matter, then, none of you should do wrong to other Christians or take advantage of them. We have told you this before, and we strongly warned you that the Lord will punish those who do that" (1 Thess. 4:3, 6, GNB).