

## **Pornography**

-The necessity of addressing this topic in church and family (even if it is awkward or embarrassing).

*The representation in books, magazines, photographs, films, and other media of scenes of sexual behavior that are erotic or lewd and are designed to arouse sexual interest.*

-The ubiquity and ease of access to pornography in our culture is a new development in human history (a shift that has happened in my own lifetime).

-The ease with which pornography can be accessed means that it has great potential to be engaged in regularly and secretly.

*Is viewing pornography sinful?*

Matthew 5:27-29: *“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.”*

-Viewing pornography is, according to Jesus, to commit adultery (a violation of the seventh commandment), and thus it is sinful, regardless of marital status. This fundamental reality does not change based on the acceptance of viewing pornography in our culture, or even in a Christian marriage.

-Viewing pornography is a sin against God.

-Viewing pornography is a corruption of our own sexual health, capacity and holiness.

a. Viewing pornography harms our own capacity for sexual intimacy in marriage as God intended it.

b. Viewing pornography makes us uniquely vulnerable to a pattern of shame, guilt and unconfessed and unrepented sin that can put in the place of leading a “double life” and destroying our souls.

c. Viewing pornography desensitizes us to evil, and increases our tolerance for perversion and sexual violence.

-Viewing pornography, if married, is a sin against our spouse and our children.

-Viewing pornography is a sin against the person being filmed, photographed, etc.

a. We have a responsibility to not “uncover the shame” or “look on the nakedness” of others.  
WLC 139: *“The duties required in the seventh commandment are, the preservation of [chastity] in ourselves and others...”*

b. *“Pornography is filmed prostitution.”* To view pornography is to participate in a massive economy and network of prostitution (i.e. the exchange of sexual acts for money) in our present age. It is to perpetuate and participate in the abuse of men and (particularly) women created in the image of God who are being destroyed by the activities they are participating in - notwithstanding the fact that many are not willing participants at all.

c. To view pornography is to participate in the degradation, humiliation and violent abuse of men and (particularly) women.

### What is the path of repentance?

-Corporate repentance for the church is to clearly speak against the evil of prostitution and to not tolerate in our midst, in any form. This is not limited only to viewing explicit pornography. What kind of movies/TV/music videos do we watch? What kind of music do we listen to? What kind of books do we read? What kind of jokes do we make?

-Corporate repentance for our nation includes making the production of or viewing of pornography illegal (note that we already instinctively do this for child pornography — but all human beings, regardless of age — are grievously harmed by being filmed or photographed for the sexual arousal of others). The church should rally around and prioritize the outlawing of pornography, just as it has for prostitution and abortion.

-Personal repentance for the sin of pornography means understanding our sin, grieving it, hating it, confessing it, and walking in holiness. It will be almost impossible to do this without asking explicitly for help, confessing our sin to others, and substantially changing patterns in our lifestyle and relationship to technology — as well as our positive embrace of the means of grace.

*Redemption, forgiveness and healing from the sin of pornography is a fundamental promise of the gospel.*

### **WSC Q. 87. What is repentance unto life?**

A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

### **WCF 15 - Of Repentance**

4. As there is no sin so small, but it deserves damnation; so there is no sin so great, that it can bring damnation upon those who truly repent.

5. Men ought not to content themselves with a general repentance, but it is every man's duty to endeavor to repent of his particular sins, particularly.