



Pornography Prevention For Pastors

Shawn had looked up to his brother since they were kids. Even though his brother had shown him porn when he was nine, he didn't think anything was weird about it. It was just what guys did on their own when they got older. It felt great and it didn't hurt anybody, so what could be the problem?

It did hurt somebody. It hurt the person whom Shawn had viewed and it hurt Shawn himself.

Questions

Why is it our business what adults do in the privacy of their own homes?

It isn't. It's up to each person to navigate the moral life with its ups and downs. But it's much more difficult when you don't know which way is up. This isn't a case for any practice to be outlawed, just a demonstration of masturbation's intrinsically inhumane character.

People like Shawn need to recognize they're in prison if they're ever going to be freed. **And freedom is possible.** See Resources on the reverse for more.

Is the sex industry just like any other industry that provides a service via bodily activity?

After all, waiters in restaurants use their bodies to deliver a pleasurable, biological necessity too. But in this analogy, the waiter isn't comparable to a porn actor.

The waiter delivers the object of consumption, but isn't himself the object of consumption. The porn actor is comparable to the food.

How the porn actor sees herself



How the viewer sees her

Love means **more.**

Tips for approaching the topic of pornography with parishioners

Listen to their experiences, but also T.A.L.K.

- **Tone** it down: Focus on conveying information and experience. Stay calm, and if they should start to raise their voices, don't match their tone.
- **Assume** the best intentions: Most people don't start out with a militant desire to live contrary to the truth. If they push back, even if what they're saying is wrong, consider that multiple pressures could be influencing their opinions. Try to identify how those pressures impact their ideas.
- **Limit** your claims: Avoid using generalizing words like "always" and "never". Don't over-promise on the benefits of living according to the truth.
- **Keep** to the issue: Don't get sidetracked talking about other beliefs or a controversial public figure; focus on the topic of chastity.

How does viewing porn hurt the viewer and the actor?

First, consider the actor. Even if she freely consented, Shawn was not relating to her as a person, but only as an object intended to cause a visceral reaction in him. If an inanimate object could have yielded the same result, Shawn might have opted for that.

The problem is not that porn shows too much, the problem is that it shows too little. It obscures the value of the person being viewed and rips out of context a limited aspect of her personhood. There's a reason viewers turn the sound off.

Second, it also hurt Shawn, making him less free and more isolated. The act of masturbating and the porn that aided it served neither the unitive nor the procreative purpose of sex. How could they when they involved just him?

Repeated instances conditioned Shawn to prioritize his own pleasure, disregarding the other person's well-being.

For either men or women, solitary sexual activity turns a person's other-oriented faculty back on itself. But there is hope for anyone to achieve healing, if they seek help, starting with our Resources.

Learn more about
chastity at
LoveMeansMore.org



Resources

Create in Me a Pure Heart

A pastoral response to pornography from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops
usccb.org/pureheart

Covenant Eyes

Internet accountability, Safe Haven Sunday, and more
covenanteyes.com

Integrity Restored

Training, education, and encouragement
integrityrestored.com

Chastity Project

Videos, podcasts, research, and other resources
chastity.com/qa/category/porn

Religious Alliance Against Pornography

Stories, education, and other resources
religiousalliance.org



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