**Sin Of The Eyes**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday June 2nd, 2019

Text: Col. 3:5

### Intro

1. Old adage: “Sex sells”
   1. According to sources (many different ones due in part that many distributors do not report; *source numbers in parenthesis)* the annual world-wide profit for the pornography industry is worth $97 billion dollars *(Source Numbers 1, 5)!*
   2. The U.S. alone claims $10-12 billion annually *(1)*
2. Questions: Is it wrong to view pornography? *Can a Christian married couple view it together?*
3. Old song: “Oh be careful little eyes what you see…” (Mt. 6:22-23)

#### Effects of Pornography on Marriages *(Source Numbers in Parenthesis)*

* 1. In the U.S. alone there are 1-Million divorces a year *(2, 3)* and of that number 56% or roughly 500,000 marriages that end in divorce sited pornography as a factor! *(2, 3)*
     1. According to Psychology Today *(2):* “the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, polled 350 divorce attorneys in 2003 where two thirds of them reported that the Internet played a significant role in the divorces, with excessive interest in online porn contributing to more than half such cases.”
     2. According to the April 2014 issue of Psychology of Popular Media Culture, researchers “found that porn users are more open to marital infidelity, the leading cause of divorce in the United States” *(3).*
  2. According to Time Magazine *(6)* & Science Magazine *(4)* a study found that “people who started watching porn were more likely to split with their partners during the course of the survey. For men, the chance of divorce went from 5% to 10% (doubled). For women, that number jumped from 6% to 18% (tripled)” *(4).*
     1. It also stated, “men and women who begin to consume pornography partway through their marriages are more likely to get a divorce than their non–porn-consuming peers” *(4).*
  3. One study “discovered that porn addiction distorts the brain the same way alcohol and drugs do” *(3),* causing addiction!
     1. Pornography doesn’t just affect men (though statistics reveal they are affected at a higher rate). According to some divorce statistics, “Women struggling with pornography addiction = 17%”, and “Women, far more than men, are likely to act out their behaviors in real life, such as having multiple partners, casual sex or affairs” *(5).*
  4. Pornography is addicting, and causes strains on marital life, and even leads to adultery!
  5. Statistics alone show it is a bad idea to introduce it into any married couple’s life, but especially a Christian couple!

#### Saints Are to be Dead to Sin

* 1. Some couples ask, “Is it OK for a married couple to watch pornography (together)?”
  2. The defense is usually from Heb. 13:4: “Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”
     1. What happens when animals or extra partners are introduced to the “marriage bed?” (People wanting to play out their fantasies)
     2. Would the marriage bed still be held in honor? (When impurity is introduced?)
  3. Mt. 19:9: Jesus said one could remarry if the marriage was broken due to *porneia (G4202) [por-ni'-ah]:* *From G4203 porneuō (unlawful lust);* harlotry (including adultery and incest); figuratively idolatry: - fornication (would also include bestiality as a form of sexual immorality).
     1. *(7)* *Porneia* is a broad term that generally means, “illicit sexual intercourse,” that includes adultery (*The Divorce Dilemma,* p.23-24).
     2. Adultery is usually translated as *moicheia [moy-khi'-ah] (G3430)* and is sometimes separate from fornication *(porneia)* – *Mt. 15:19; Mk. 7:21; I Cor. 6:9; Heb. 13:4*
     3. In ancient Rome a complex for harlots (many different wings: music, entertainment, food, fetishes of all appetites) was called the *Porneia!* Prostitution was legal and state-run and was mostly made up of female and male slaves, though many people went into that profession for various reasons.
  4. Why would any couple, especially a Christian couple, want to introduce such a destructive, evil practice into their lives?
  5. Col. 3:5: Those who have died in Christ (Gal. 5:24; Col. 3:3) are told to “put to death” (NKJV) certain things – *Rom. 6:11: “Be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus”*
  6. Immorality/Fornication (NKJV) – *porneia (G4202)*
     1. *I Cor. 6:13-20:* This is a sin that was a problem then and is now.
        1. More and more studies and surveys show American couples are living together rather than getting married *(Playing House!).*
     2. I Cor. 6:15-16, 18: Our bodies belong to Christ and are not to be used immorally (Fornication is sin and doesn’t belong in life of saint – Eph. 5:3).
     3. Heb. 13:4: Sex is a sacred thing to be enjoyed between a husband and wife.
     4. *Saints are to “put it to death!”*
  7. Impurity/Uncleanness (NKJV) -- This is described as lustful living and sexual perversion
     1. Eph. 5:3; Col. 3:5: Impurity/uncleanness not to be named among saints!
     2. *Akatharsia [ak-ath-ar-see'-ah] (G167):* Impurity, a state of physical or moral filthiness, especially in relation to sexual sin: moral uncleanness.
     3. Pornography comes from the *porneia* word group though not used in the N.T.: *(Gr. Pornographia)* from *Porneia (G4202):* prostitution (including adultery and incest); figuratively, idolatry: --fornication; and from *Graphō (G1125):* “I write or record,” description, “illustration.” Thus *pornographia* means “a written description or illustration of prostitutes or prostitution.”
        1. It is always described negatively, so is no place for the Christian.
        2. Involves a third party, the voyeur, as it is designed to entice.
        3. The sexual act itself is not pornography (as it is the description) but would be fornication or adultery *(porneia),* which is condemned.
        4. Pornography describes in written form or illustration (pictures, video) the act of fornication or adultery in order to entice the voyeur to lust!
     4. Married couples that view pornography together are the voyeurs so no longer just between the two of them, and can cause one or the other or both to become addicted to impurity/immorality…sinful!
        1. Heb. 13:4: When sin introduced, the marriage bed is no longer honored!
     5. The purpose of pornography is to sexually excite or entice, which is to commit sin of impurity; either by thinking or by doing! *(Porneia is all around us: billboards, TV commercials & programs, the clothes people wear in town, shopping, etc.)*
        1. Mt. 5:27-28: To think about it is to do it (what goes into the eyes turns to thoughts, and thoughts turn into action!) – *II Sam. 11: David & Bathsheba*
        2. Job 31:1: Job said, “I have made a covenant with my eyes.”
        3. Mt. 15:19: Committing fornication is evil.
     6. *Christians are to “put it to death!” (Along with lust, evil desires, and greed!)*
  8. Sensuality/Lewdness (NKJV) – “Unbridled lust” (Thayer)
     1. II Cor. 12:21; Gal. 5:19; Eph. 4:19 (NKJ): Uncleanness & lewdness condemned together!
  9. Being alive in Christ requires saints to “put to death” sexual immorality & impurity!

## Conclusion

1. Sexual immorality is a “deed of the flesh” and will cause one to not inherit Heaven! *(Gal. 5:19-21; I Cor. 6:9-10) – Rom. 6:1-2: We are to be “dead to sin” and live in it no more!*
2. Either participating in the act of fornication/adultery or lusting after an illicit sexual act is sinful for the unmarried and the married and should not be named among saints *(Eph. 5:3)!*
3. “Oh be careful little eyes what you see…”
   1. The arguments that enticements and lust are not the same as the act and therefore not as sinful, don’t hold up to Scripture!
   2. Married couples are told they are “fellow heirs of the grace of life” and husbands are to honor their wives as such (I Pet. 3:7) – How can a husband honor his wife by allowing a destructive, addicting, evil practice into the marriage that can lead to adultery and destroy their marriage?
   3. Saints are told to “put to death” all forms of sexual immorality and impurity! *(Col. 3:5)*
   4. *Rev. 22:14-15:* “Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.” *(Immorality = pornos [G4205]: to sell; prostitution)*
   5. Sexual Immorality *(Porneia)* will keep one out of Heaven!
4. Don’t be guilty of committing the sin of the eyes!
   1. *Mt. 5:29; 18:9:* If your eye causes you to sin, cast it out so as not to go to Hell whole!
      1. In hyperbole (exaggerated statement) Jesus advises removing every temptation to evil, no matter what the cost *(Heb. 12:1: “Lay aside the sin that entangles”).*
      2. The warning of hell indicates that those whose lifestyle is characterized by uncontrolled immorality are not heirs of the kingdom *(I Cor. 9:9-10).*
   2. Mt. 6:22-23: “The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!”
5. Whatever causes your eyes to sin, “put it to death!” *(Col. 3:5)!*
6. If not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized!
7. If a Christian that has erred, repent & “put to death” the things of the world!
8. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!

**Sources:**

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2. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/inside-porn-addiction/201112/is-porn-really-destroying-500000-marriages-annually>
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