

Morals Paper: Sexually Pure, Sexually Porn - By Harry Briley - 2/1999

Originally published for Committee on Moral Concerns
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Background

This paper lists useful things that centers our minds on sexual purity as defined by:

- thousands of years of world civilizations (tradition)
- key passages from the Bible (scripture)
- practical daily living (experience)

The word 'pornography' is a conjunction of 'porneia' (every kind of unlawful sexual intercourse) and 'graphos' (writing). 'Porne' refers to a prostitute (and the sexual activity thereof). Simply put, it is any form of writing or visuals [especially visuals on the Web], that encourages interpersonal sexual activity outside of the lawful marriage covenant.

Lest I restrict myself only to this definition, I offer some tips how to be sexually pure without being legalistic about our human impulses when faced with visual porn. I rest the matter in God's hands. Instead of struggling by sheer willpower, I found God is the source of visual sexual purity that is joyous. You may be shaking your head at this poor deluded soul. *"It's fine for him but he is not living in the real world."*

Give me a chance to present my case. Someone once said (Josh McDowell perhaps) that you cannot change a skunk by dressing him up in fancy clothes. At the character level, the critter is still a stinker. It is nearly impossible to resist pornography without an inner radical surgery of the spiritual life. Jesus can fill that God-shaped void in our heart and set things in order, including our sexual impulses towards pornography.

The Bible

The Bible - - throughout the Tenach (Torah, Prophets, Writings), Gospels, and Epistles (Letters) - - does not hide sordid sexual behavior throughout history. It is a real book written by real people about real life needing to be accountable to the real and living God.

I could easily have said, like Billy Graham, "*The Bible says ...*" However, I want to impart the idea that there is something redemptive behind those simple words.

Here are a few passages about the "eye of the beholder", which is the main avenue of pornography into our gray matter. The second main avenue is audio. Together, visual and audio, the power of pornography has come of age in the past century. As some wag said, "*Pornography has everything to do with the sexual organ between our ears.*"

Psalms 101:2-4 (NIV): "*I will be careful to lead a blameless life ... I will walk in (the privacy of) my (own) house with blameless heart. I will set before **my eyes** no vile (lawless wicked) thing. The deeds of faithless men, I hate; they will not cling to me. Men of perverse heart shall be far from me; I will have nothing to do with evil.*"

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV): "*We demolish (the alluring and seductive) arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we (actively) take captive every (inner hidden) thought to make it obedient to Christ.*"

Job 31:1-7 (NIV): (Job is speaking) "*I made a covenant with **my eyes** not to look lustfully at a girl ... Does he (God) not see my ways and count my every step? ... Let God weigh me in honest scales ... if my steps have turned from the path, if my heart has been led by **my eyes**, ...*"

Matthew 5:27-28 (NIV): (Jesus is speaking using Exodus 20 and Job 31) "*You have heard that it was said 'Do not commit adultery', but I tell you that anyone **who looks** at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*"

All opposed? None? Well, there you are: The '**eyes**' have it.

Practical Stuff

Even the most holy person cannot avoid the pervasive nature of sexual innuendo, visuals, artwork, commercials, teasers, promos, and layouts. Madison Avenue and Hollywood have us covered coast to coast. Such '**eye candy**' sells cars, trucks, beer, football, films, and virtually everything else we buy in society. How do we practically become sexually pure rather than sexually prone to pervasive porn in daily life? Here are some ideas, in no particular order. Like many natural laws that God mentions in the Bible, even people who do not believe that God even exists can still benefit from being sexually pure.

- Become a monk in a monastery (OK, not so practical, but do not discount it.)
- Turn off the TV/DVD for 30 days as an experiment
- Activate blocking of 'Porn' movies in your hotel room
- Unplug the TV/DVD in your hotel room.
- Commit to click past all 'R'-rated and worse movies.
- Prohibit 'R'-rated or worse videos from your home.
- Shred or (safely) burn all existing or hidden porn in your home
- Commit to thinking that women are people of worth
- Join an accountability group [Promise Keepers, Celebrate Recovery, etc.]
- Consider a woman you are observing as being your own sister.
- Think more about helping people and live less self-centered.
- Pray using Philippians 4:4-9 as a guideline
- Delete all e-mail offering '**eye candy**'
- Ask you wife to delete all sexually oriented e-mail
- Decide that being a 'prude' gives your brain a sanity break.
- Become part of a men's mid-week prayer group at a local church.
- If asked if you want to hear a dirty joke, say 'No.'
- Activate blocking of 900-xxx-xxxx phone numbers
- Go to bed by 10pm (Are those late-night TV hosts that modest?)
- When tempted, think: "Garbage in, Garbage out"
- Read up on the transformed lives of the apostles and early martyrs.
- For us parents, realize that those images are someone's daughter.
- Let chivalry be a trait that women welcome coming from you
- Do not rationalize the S.I. swimsuit edition - **Eye candy** is eye candy.
- Be faithful and true to your spouse.
- Do not follow the President as a precedent - repent daily if needed.
- Do not attend stag parties (especially avoid those thrown for yourself)
- Attend a church where sexual purity is a given and not an open debate
- Gentleness is not a character flaw - Handle human hearts with care
- A visual makes a long-term imprint - Make better use of your neurons.
- Sow a thought, reap a behavior - Think pure.
- Sow a behavior, reap a habit - Act pure.
- Sow a habit, reap a character trait - Be pure.

(These tips provided to encourage inner hope that Jesus brings to your daily life.)