

In this video, I want to talk about Internet pornography. Notice I used the word internet. It's important. I'm not talking about magazines or anything in print. That's vanilla compared to the streaming HD porn of today, with its endless novelty and limitless depravity. It's this type of porn that everywhere and it's a wicked problem.

In order to understand what's wrong with pornography we have to go back to the beginning to understand what it means to be fully human, made in the image of God. Only then does the stark contrast between where we were and where we are today become crystal clear.

Genesis 1-2 gives us a lens through which we can see clearly how things “used to be” in regard to our sexuality. The creation narrative makes it abundantly clear that sex is God's idea and that it is good. After all, the first instructions we read from God to humankind in the form of Adam and Eve are from **Genesis 1:28, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” (Gen 1:28)**

When placed in the garden, Adam and Eve made sense of everything around them through their bodies. Their senses. Everything we experience in life is through the body. And, God's beginning words to them as male and female were “make sense of each other through your bodies. Offer them to each other. They are a beautiful gift to give.”

This is our beginning. Genesis chapters 1-2.

But, what happened in Genesis 3 blurred our understanding of this original intent. You all know this as “the Fall,” and some of the many results of that choice are lust, disordered desires, and distortion of beautiful things. The ripples from that fateful choice continue to spread, impacting every person.

Pornography is one of those ripples. And, because of technology, it's everywhere, all the time.

When I was a child, yes, there were magazines and centerfolds, but the doorways to porn were harder to find and lived in places like Cinemax and HBO, which were harder to access (since my home didn't have either). This is not the case today. The doorways to pornography are everywhere. Including in homes and classrooms.

Let me give you an example of porn's pervasiveness. Pornhub is the largest pornographic website. For the year 2016, there were **92 billion videos watched**. Doing some simple math, that means every man, woman, and child on earth could have watched just over 12 videos on this ONE website for ONE year. There were over **5,200**



**centuries of time spent watching porn** on this ONE website for ONE year. Porn is the norm.

Consider this advertisement used by Pornhub. Notice its brilliance. Using a popular teen hand gesture to soften the message, almost making it sweet and acceptable. This is a simple example of how porn is seeping into the cultural landscape and becoming normalized.

Instagram is massively popular among kids and teens. But, in spite of its community rules, Instagram has almost a billion users and the company cannot control what people upload. It suffers from a massive amount of pornography. There's an entire underbelly of Instagram content called "**Instaporn**". And, with six clicks, any kid can find hard-core and even pop culture pornography on Instagram. By "pop culture" porn, we're referring to those certain celebrities who post topless selfies, just for publicity.

In 2016, the Barna Institute completed a survey called *The Porn Phenomenon*. In it, they surveyed just over 800 teens and young adults ages 13-24 and asked them to rank 10 issues from worst to least worst – the survey wanted to know what teens thought was bad for society. The results? American teens rank **"not recycling" is a worse societal issue than watching pornography**. This same study found that most Americans do not believe that partial or even full nudity qualifies as porn.

Recently, I spent time with individuals at my local Children's Assessment Center. These fine organizations exist all over the United States, with the purpose of assessing and supporting child victims of suspected sexual assault. The most pervasive issue these centers are dealing with today is child-on-child sexual abuse. And, the most frequent source of education these young abusers receive, triggering their impulse to touch other children, is from an early exposure to pornography. Porn is the common denominator. You see, young children have brains full of what are called mirror neurons, which compel them to do the things that they see being done.

Did you catch what I just said? Pornography is a serial *abuser* of children.

With this information as a landscape, I hope you will agree with me that we must do everything in our power in our schools and in our homes, to protect children from pornography.

