

# impact

Living  
Your Values  
Out Loud

**“Be diligent to  
be found by  
Him in peace,  
without spot  
and blameless.”**

**2 Peter 3:14**



## THE EPIDEMIC OF PORNOGRAPHY

**Shared within God’s design of marriage, sexual desire is a beautiful emotion that binds husband and wife together in a profound and wonderful way. Misused, it invites disaster.**

Sexual desire is like nuclear energy in that it can be channeled for great good or great harm. When used in power plants, nuclear energy is a wonderful thing, providing abundant, renewable electric power for millions of homes and businesses. Yet in the hands of ruthless totalitarians, nuclear energy can unleash indiscriminate, apocalyptic destruction.

Pornography is among the most devastating abuses of our God-given sexuality, corrupting both mind and spirit. It degrades people by portraying them as objects to exploit for personal gratification. It fills the minds of believers with sexual images, poisoning their thoughts toward their brothers and sisters in Christ. It chains both men and women to the shackles of addictive lust, destroying lives, shattering marriages and families. It is often the spark that ignites adultery and sexual abuse.

The Internet and the continuing coarsening of television programming have brought explicit sexuality into our homes and offices. Because we are weak creatures, we must purpose in our hearts to be discerning about what we allow ourselves to see.

As God’s children and followers of Christ, we must be good stewards of all His gifts, including our sexuality. Let us flee from pornography, so that when we encounter Christ face-to-face we will not be found to have abused His good gift.

### Study shows heavy porn use

In a survey of students ages 13-14, 90% of males and 70% of females reported watching sexually explicit media content—“too many times to count,” over one-third of the boys said.

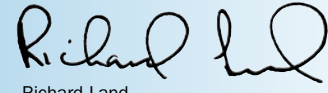
#### Where do they see pornography?

Internet	74%
Video/DVD	41%
Cable TV	57%

University of Alberta press release, February 23, 2007



Pornography is one of the most wicked and powerful weapons in Satan's arsenal and is perhaps the greatest challenge Christians face today. It is one of the causes of divorce, and thus contributes to society's decline. Christians have an opportunity and obligation to be "salt" and "light," doing everything we can to stop the rot of pornography while also telling of God's wonderful design for sex within marriage.



Richard Land

## Pornography by the Numbers

**38%** of adults believe it is "morally acceptable" to look at pictures of nudity or explicit sexual behavior.

**51%** of adults believe that pornography changes men's expectations of how women should look and behave, and **40%** believe that it harms relationships between men and women. Median age for the first use of pornography is **11-13** for boys and **12-14** for girls.

Half of churchgoing men said they struggle with pornography use, and **34%** of churchgoing women said they have intentionally visited porn sites.

**47.78%** of families said pornography is a problem in their home.

According to pastors, the **8** top sexual issues damaging their congregation are: pornography addiction (**57%**), sexually active never-married adults (**34%**), adultery of married adults (**30%**), sexually active teenagers (**28%**), sexual dissatisfaction (**16%**), unwed pregnancy (**14%**), sexually active previously married adults (**13%**), and sexual abuse (**9%**).

About **40 million** people in the U.S. use the Internet for sexual purposes, with "sex" being the topic searched most often.

In 2004, there were **372 million** pornographic Web pages and

**100,000** Web sites offering illegal child pornography.

The largest consumer of Internet pornography is the **12-17** age group, and **66%** of men in their 20s and 30s are regular users of pornography.

**15%** of online porn users develop sexual behavior that disrupts their lives.

**20%** of online youth have received solicitations for sex, usually in chat rooms.

There are **800 million** rentals each year of adult videos and DVDs, and about **11,000** adult movies are made each year for rental or pay-per-view.

**Half** of all hotel guests order pornographic movies.

U.S. porn revenue exceeds the combined revenues of professional football, baseball, and basketball. Conservatively, the pornography industry brings in **\$57 billion** per year, of which the United States is responsible for **\$12 billion**.

Child pornography generates **\$3 billion** annually.

*These statistics are from the Web site of the National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Families, [www.nationalcoalition.org](http://www.nationalcoalition.org).*

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

**PRAY** that you will keep your eyes upon Jesus and let no unholy thing seize your attention.

**SEEK** fellow believers who will hold you accountable to God's standards.

**COMMIT** yourself to your spouse and your family in thought and deed.

**GUARD** against temptation. When you travel, have access to pay-per-view movies and "adult" channels blocked for your room. Provide filtered Internet access for your home and office. Avoid television programming and movies with sexual content.

**ADVOCATE** for children in your community by demanding that computers in your public libraries and schools offer only filtered Internet access.