

## Pornography in the Church

When I consider the results of several recent surveys of American churchgoers, I cannot escape the conclusion that the American church has lost its way. According to one survey, 68% of the men in America's churches are addicted to pornography, along with 54% of their pastors. If these statistics are true, the modern "church" has become one of the most perverse institutions on the planet, and it becomes easy to understand why the unbelieving world is rejecting Jesus Christ. Christ is "judged" by what those who claim to be His people are. If, as is claimed, over 50% of American pastors use pornography, then the pulpits of America have become a fountainhead of uncleanness in the church and also the nation. We must never forget that a minister ministers what they "are" even more than what they "say." A minister with an unclean heart ministers uncleanness every time they speak, even if they are railing against the same uncleanness. A minister that partakes of the darkness of pornography may speak of love and grace, but what they minister is lust and unfaithfulness.

The stakes are too high for us not to be clear. Pornography is both adultery to the married person and fornication to everyone involved. Jesus said, "Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

Matthew 5:28 A person is what they are in their heart. If their heart is sinful, they are sinful, but if their heart is pure, they are holy. Jesus said, "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man..." Matthew 15:19-20.

There are three great tragedies in this pornography epidemic. One is that it exists in the church at all. The second is that many of our teachers seek to deny the eternal implications for the ones involved. The Apostle Paul was clear: "Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind... shall inherit the kingdom of God." 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 Yet as a whole, the church refuses to believe such scriptures. Our doctrinal philosophies tell us this could not possibly be true. Still, I must say as Paul said, "I tell you before (before you stand before God), as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Galatians 5:21 The third and greatest tragedy is that rarely is the gospel preached that makes everyone who believes it (even those bound by pornography) "free indeed." John 8:31-36

In 1987 in a vision from the Lord, I saw God sweeping (as with a broom) the churches of America. But in many of the churches, he was not sweeping away the unclean, he was sweeping the clean out from among the unclean. As I watched I heard the Spirit of God say, "When I am finished, in the churches of the unclean there will be nothing left but uncleanness from the pulpit to the pew." Although it breaks my heart, I do believe that I am seeing this vision fulfilled in this generation.

Modern Christianity is a fallen religion; fallen because it has forsaken the "truth of God" and believed a "lie." Romans 1:24-26, II Thessalonians 2:10-12 Jesus is presented as "the great enabler" who covers our sins before God so we can "continue in sin" Romans 6:1-2 without suffering the penalty of sin. Romans 6:23 It is very apparent that the church which offers this philosophical salvation has lost all understanding of the "gospel of Christ." Romans 1:16 Christ, the creator, came into the world to save sinners "...from their sin." Matthew 1:21 He came to "make an end of sins." Daniel 9:24 Sixty years after Christ died for us, the apostle John wrote as though it were

common knowledge among the children of God: "And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not..." 1John 3:5-6 With those twenty-four words, John gave the answer for the problem of sin in the heart of man: **1.** Believe that Christ the creator came into the world as the man Jesus to take away our sin. **HE DID NOT TAKE YOUR PENALTY; HE DIED TO TAKE YOUR SIN AWAY.** **2.** Believe that He accomplished this through His crucifixion and resurrection. **3.** Trust in Christ alone. Paul warned us to "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." Colossians 2:8 Trust in Christ, without the programs of religion, to do in you what he died to accomplish. Ask the Lord to give you a "new heart" and a "new spirit." Ezekiel 36:26-27 **4.** Simply believe the truth and trust in Christ. Pornography and every other sin will cease in you.

*"And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God"*  
1 Corinthians 6:11

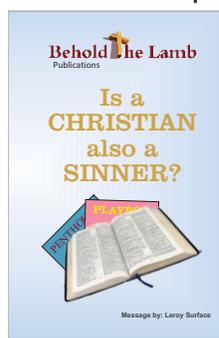
Yes, we were all sinners, but notice that the apostle places our "sin" in the past tense. We were sinners, but we are washed, sanctified, and justified. It is commonly believed that sinners are "justified" without any change whatsoever. It is that kind of theology that has given us a church with 68% of its men addicted to pornography. Such theology will leave you in bondage to

sin forever and damn your soul in the end. Notice the "order" the apostle gave; "...but you are washed, but you are sanctified, but you are justified." His use of the word "but (contrariwise)" three times in one verse gives three contradictions to sin. "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us," Romans 5:8 and we are sinners no more. The idea that a person is forgiven, justified, and "going to heaven" while continuing in sin is a damning thought. The idea that you are "justified without change," but must make a change in order to be saved will leave you in bondage to the whims of religious instructors for the rest of your life. "You are accepted by God," they tell you, "as long as you remain in our program for your addiction." I would rather tell you about Christ, who came into the world to "take away your sin" John 1:29, 1 John 3:5-6, to take it out of your heart and nature, and to "make you free from sin" Romans 6:22 so you could serve God "in righteousness and holiness all the days of your life." Luke 1:74-75 I have no purpose beyond that.

**"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."**

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