

The Pornography Epidemic

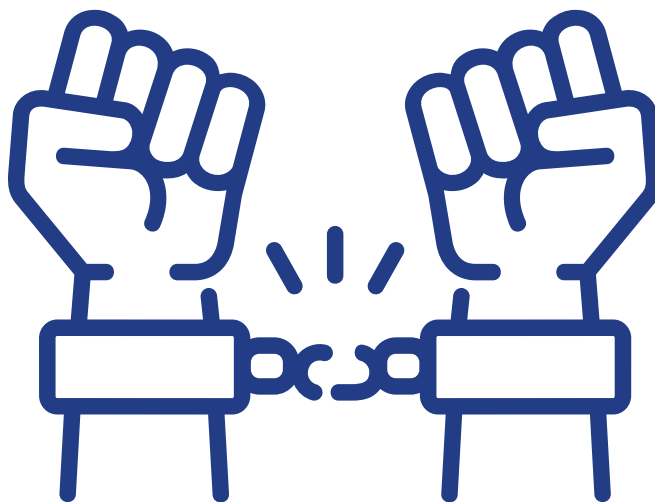




THE BONDAGE OF PORNOGRAPHY

In the Church Ambassador Network, a ministry of The FAMIly Leader Foundation, we work to free people from bondage, defined as being captured, unable to escape, from circumstance or behavior. There are many behaviors in our culture that may begin as a choice, but become addictions that lead to bondage. Pornography, for example, leads many into bondage. Many American men and a growing number of women are addicted to pornography, but perhaps most alarming is the number of minor children who are being exposed to pornography at younger and younger ages, some studies showing as young as 7 or 8 years old.

The Church Ambassador Network seeks to come alongside the State of Iowa to help people break free from this bondage, as well as preventing individuals, particularly minors, from ever being addicted to pornography.





PORNOGRAPHY'S IMPACT ON YOUTH

With 84% of teenagers owning a smartphone and 53% of youth owning a smartphone by age 11, it is not a matter of **if** our youth will be exposed to pornography, but **when**. We must prepare our youth to know how to respond **before** they encounter it.

10

AVERAGE AGE KIDS IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE SEEN PORNOGRAPHY

Wallstreet Journal: "What Porn Does to Teen Brains—and How to Keep It Off Their Devices"

60%

OF SURVEYED CHILDREN HAVE REPORTED SEEING PORNOGRAPHY FOR THE FIRST TIME AT HOME

"The Porn Phenomenon" Josh McDowell, 2016

75%

OF SURVEYED PARENTS SAID THEY HAVE NEVER DISCUSSED INTERNET PORNOGRAPHY WITH THEIR CHILDREN

"The Porn Phenomenon" Josh McDowell, 2016

"A teen's brain is at its peak of dopamine production and neuroplasticity, making it highly vulnerable to addiction and rewiring as their brain is not yet finished developing."

Gary Wilson
yourbrainonporn.com

71%

OF TEENAGERS ENCOUNTER PORNOGRAPHY WITHOUT LOOKING FOR IT

"The Porn Phenomenon" Josh McDowell, 2016, Page 41

47 Million

PORNOGRAPHY VIDEOS ARE VIEWED DAILY BY 7 TO 14 YEAR OLDS IN THE UNITED STATES

"The Porn Phenomenon" Josh McDowell, 2016



PORNOGRAPHY'S IMPACT IN THE UNITED STATES

With the creation of the internet, pornography has become extremely accessible, widespread, and very difficult to regulate.

2.4 Million

PEOPLE VISIT THE TOP 3
PORN SITES IN THE UNITED
STATES EVERY MINUTE

"Top 100: The Most Visited websites in the US—2021 Top websites edition. Accessed on 28 March, 2022



A SURVEY OF ADULTS
CONDUCTED IN 2018 IN
THE U.S FOUND AN
ESTIMATED 91.5% OF MEN
AND 60.2% OF WOMEN
REPORT THAT THEY'VE
CONSUMED PORN IN THE
PAST MONTH

*"Solano, I., Eaton, N. R., & O'Leary, K. D. (2020).
Pornography Consumption, Modality and Function in
a Large Internet Sample. Journal of sex research*

109 Billion

PORNOGRAPHIC VIDEOS WERE
VIEWED IN 2018 ON PORNHUB

Pornhub Insights. (2018). 2018 Year In Review.

12,500 GB

OF PORNOGRAPHY VIDEOS WERE UPLOADED
EVERY MINUTE TO PORNHUB IN 2019

Pornhub Insights. (2019). 2019 Year In Review.

TODAY, PORN SITES
RECEIVE MORE WEBSITE
TRAFFIC IN THE U.S. THAN
TWITTER, INSTAGRAM,
TIKTOK, NETFLIX,
PINTEREST, AND ZOOM
COMBINED

*"The Most Visited websites in the US—2021 Top
websites edition. Accessed on 28 March, 2022.*



PORNOGRAPHY'S IMPACT ON THE CHURCH

With the creation of the internet, pornography has become extremely accessible, widespread, and very difficult to address.

41%

OF PRACTICING CHRISTIAN MALES 13-24 ACTIVELY SEEK OUT PORN AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH

"The Porn Phenomenon" Josh McDowell, 2016

38%

OF PASTORS SURVEYED SAY PORN IS A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM IN THEIR CHURCH

"The Porn Phenomenon" Josh McDowell, 2016

7%

OF CHURCHES HAVE A MINISTRY FOR THOSE ADDICTED TO PORNOGRAPHY

"The Porn Phenomenon" Josh McDowell, 2016

14%

OF SENIOR PASTORS STRUGGLE WITH PORNOGRAPHY ADDICTION

20%

OF YOUTH PASTORS STRUGGLE WITH PORNOGRAPHY ADDICTION

"The Porn Phenomenon" Josh McDowell, 2016

MOST EFFECTIVE RESOURCES



MENTORS
ACCOUNTABILITY
COUNSELING

"The Porn Phenomenon" Josh McDowell, 2016



PORNOGRAPHY'S ADDICTIVE NATURE

Endless screen time has made pornography more accessible than it ever has been before. By providing millions of hours of videos constantly accessible just a finger click away, pornography has become one of the world's largest addictions. It knows no class, race, ethnicity, nor even sex.

Impact on the Brain

CHEMICALS
Pornography causes the release of pleasure chemicals like dopamine, serotonin, oxytocin, and epinephrine in the brain.

REWIRING
The brain rewires itself to accommodate the extra chemicals.

Frontal Lobes
The area of the brain responsible for making decisions and logically thinking through situations and scenarios is the part of the brain most affected by addiction.

DEPENDENCY
The body builds up a tolerance and a dependency to the chemicals. The brain goes from wanting the pleasure chemicals to needing them.

Fightthenewdrug.org and Josh McDowell Ministries

21% **63%**

21% OF WOMEN AND 63% OF MEN AGES 18-30 VIEW PORN MULTIPLE TIMES A WEEK.

Fightthenewdrug.org and Josh McDowell Ministries

64%

OF YOUNG PEOPLE, AGES 13-24, ACTIVELY SEEK OUT PORNOGRAPHY WEEKLY OR MORE.

Chiara Sabina, Janis Wolak, and David Finkelhor, "The Nature and Dynamics of Internet Pornography Exposure for Youth"



PORNOGRAPHY'S CONSEQUENCES

All bondage eventually ends in a spiritual death. Bondage takes way more from you than you ever imagined. Pornography is no different. Pornography ravages your relationships beginning with yourself and overflowing into others.

Destroys Relationships and Marriages

RESEARCH CONSISTENTLY SHOWS THAT PORN CONSUMERS ARE TWICE AS LIKELY TO LATER EXPERIENCE DIVORCE OR BREAKUP - EVEN AFTER CONTROLLING FOR MARITAL HAPPINESS, SEXUAL SATISFACTION, AND OTHER RELEVANT FACTORS.

Perry, S.L (2018). Pornography us and marital separation: Evidence from two-wave panel data.

Impacts More Than You

WOMEN WHOSE PARTNERS CONSUME PORNOGRAPHY TEND TO EXPERIENCE MORE PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS, FEEL MORE OBJECTIFIED, HAVE POORER BODY IMAGE, AND ARE EVEN MORE LIKELY TO DEVELOP EATING DISORDER SYMPTOMS.

Tylka, T.L., & Kroon Van Diest, A.M. (2015). You Looking at Her "Hot" Body May Not be "Cool" for Me: Integrating Male Partners

Hurts Mental Health

STUDIES SHOW THAT PORNOGRAPHY INCREASES THE DESIRE FOR SUICIDE, LOWERS SELF-ESTEEM, INCREASES LONELINESS, AS WELL AS DECREASES OVERALL EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING.

Brown, C.C., Durtschi, J.A, Carroll, J.S., & Willoughby, B.J. (2017). Understanding and predicting classes of college students who use pornography.



BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF BONDAGE AND ADDICTIONS

ADDICTIONS PROMISE LIFE AND ENTERTAINMENT, BUT END ONLY IN BONDAGE AND LOSS OF CONTROL OF ONE'S OWN LIFE

All addictions start the same. They promise life and entertainment, and at first they do. You want to go back. You want to bring your friends. It is innocent and cheap at first. It begins as a choice. That once innocent choice over time becomes an addiction. Now a person may desire to quit, but they can't. They keep going back, even against their own will. It is no longer entertaining, life-giving, or cheap. It will now cost them everything. It will cost them their time, resources, physical health and relationships.



"Everything is permissible for me," but not everything is helpful. "Everything is permissible for me," but I will not be brought under the control of anything." 1 Corinthians 6:12

COSTLY FOR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

Addictions don't only come at a financial or time cost. They come at a great relational cost, which is the greatest cost of them all. Addicts over time lose marriages, parental rights, and friendships. Those costs that were once only a personal cost now come at a great cost to the family and community.



"But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire. Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death." James 1:14-15



REQUIRES A BROKEN HEART AND INTERVENTION TO BE SET FREE

It is very difficult to help someone who doesn't want help nor desires to change. In the Scriptures, salvation follows repentance and recognition of a need of a Savior. Repentance is pulling a 180, it is recognizing you did wrong and want to do right. If someone is going to be set free from their addiction, they must have a humble, repentant spirit with a desire to change.



"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

THE LAW IS A TOOL AND A GUIDE TO PROTECT PEOPLE FROM BONDAGE AND ADDICTIONS

The law cannot save people, neither can it eliminate wrong behavior. The law is not, and must not, be the final solution. However, it must be a part of it. The law has been used as a tool to serve and assist people for generations. Laws will never eradicate addictions, but they can guide people away from addictions and protect them from those who desire to make them addicted. Laws must continue to be used as tools to both help people break free from addictions, and more importantly protect them from ever getting addicted.



"The law, then, was our guardian until Christ, so that we could be justified by faith." Galatians 3:24



"What should we say then? Is the law sin? Absolutely not! But I would not have known sin if it were not for the law." Romans 7:7



OPPRESSORS WANT TO KEEP PEOPLE IN BONDAGE

Oppression is when someone is intentionally using power and authority to keep someone under their control. Profit can be made off of someone who is addicted. They are a guaranteed repeat customer that does not require clever marketing or good service to maintain. Sell them once and then you have them for life. Companies or individuals who make money off of products that cause addiction have a vested interest in keeping people addicted.



“Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.” Isaiah 1:17

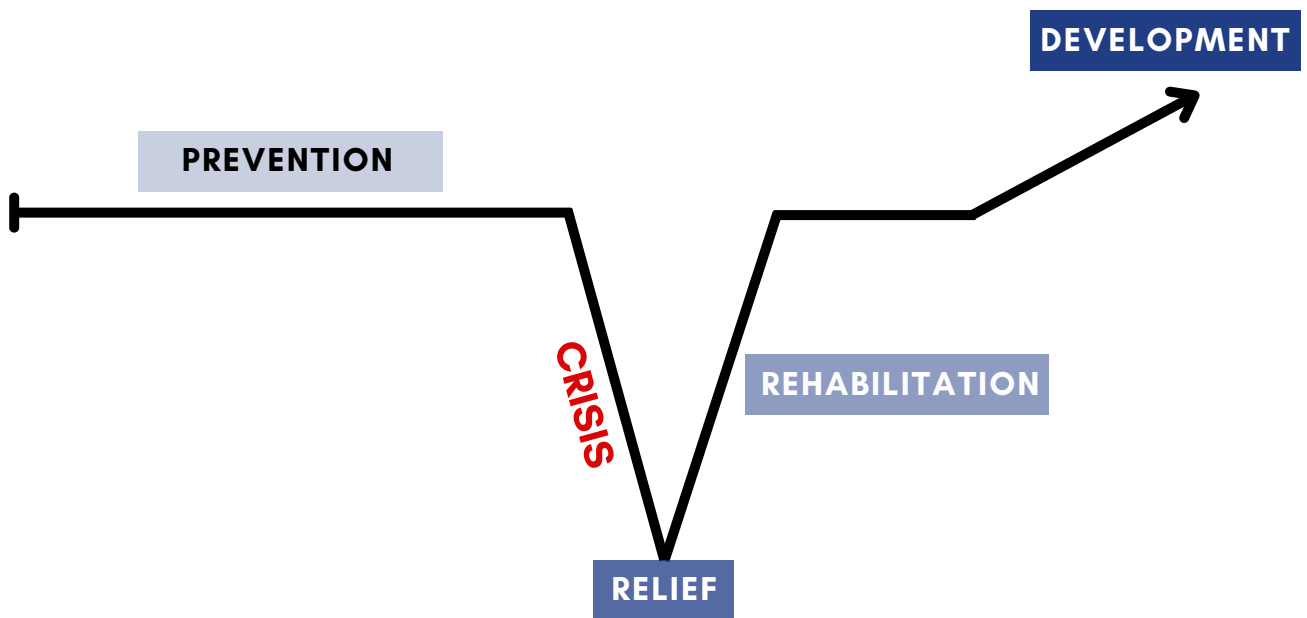


“Whoever oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to poverty.” Proverbs 22:16



COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

All bondage eventually ends in a spiritual death. Bondage takes way more from you than you ever imagined. Pornography is no different. Pornography ravages your relationships beginning with yourself and overflowing into others. In order to break bondage, including pornography addiction, it is essential that our strategies, Church and government, take a comprehensive approach as illustrated below.



PREVENTION

Stopping potential crisis or trauma

RELIEF

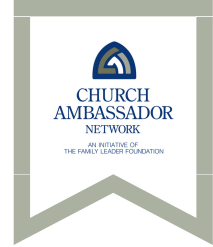
Urgent and temporary provision of emergency aid to reduce immediate suffering

REHABILITATION

Restore people and their communities to positive elements of their pre-crisis conditions

DEVELOPMENT

Ongoing change that moves people closer to being in right relationship with God and others.



WHAT CAN THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF IOWA DO?

The Iowa Legislative Branch can work to address growing pornography addiction, particularly with minors by doing the following.

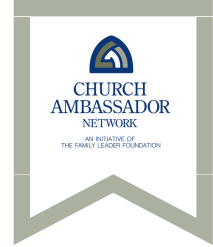
Phone Filters



Treatment Funding



IOWA
DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC
HEALTH



WHAT CAN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF IOWA DO?

The State of Iowa can work to address growing pornography addiction, particularly with minors by doing the following.

Study

COMMISSION A STUDY THROUGH ONE OF IOWA'S REGENT UNIVERSITIES ON PORNOGRAPHY ADDICTION IN THE STATE OF IOWA.

Prevent

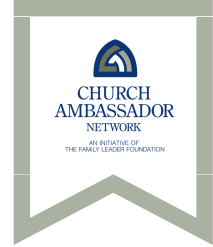
CREATE A PORNOGRAPHY PREVENTION PROGRAM THAT EDUCATES MINORS ON THE HARM OF PORNOGRAPHY AND HOW TO SAY NO WHEN THEY SEE IT ON THE INTERNET. WE LEARNED OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PREVENTATIVE EDUCATION WITH CIGARETTES, DRUGS, AND ALCOHOL.

Treat

ADD PORNOGRAPHY ADDICTION TO YOUR LIFE IOWA SERVICES, WHICH ALREADY INCLUDE ALCOHOL, DRUGS, GAMBLING, SUICIDE, AND MENTAL HEALTH.

Recognize

THE GOVERNOR OF IOWA CAN RECOGNIZE THE GROWING ADDICTION OF PORNOGRAPHY BY SIGNING A PROCLAMATION DECLARING A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS, PARTICULARLY FOR IOWA'S YOUTH.



WHAT CAN CHURCHES DO?

With 93% of churches not having ministry resources to help those who are addicted to pornography, the goal of the Church Ambassador Network is to raise awareness of the pornography epidemic, and to remove barriers for churches who wish to minister to those who are struggling with pornography addiction.

Educate

OUR GOAL IS TO CREATE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AND EVENTS THAT COMMUNICATE THE CURRENT STATUS OF PORNOGRAPHY ADDICTION IN THE CHURCH, NATION AND WORLD.



"Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible."

Ephesians 5:11-13

Inspire

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STATE OF IOWA, THE CHURCH AMBASSADOR NETWORK WILL PRODUCE MATERIALS AND VIDEOS THAT WILL SEEK TO INSPIRE THE CHURCH TO ENGAGE IN THE BATTLE OF PORNOGRAPHY ADDICTION.



"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works."

Hebrews 10:23-24



Equip

AS PART OF EQUIPPING THE CHURCH, THE CHURCH AMBASSADOR NETWORK'S GOAL IS TO CREATE A RESOURCE TOOLKIT FOR PARENTS, PASTORS, AND MINISTRY LEADERS TO BETTER EQUIP THEM IN ADDRESSING PORNOGRAPHY ADDICTION IN THEIR HOMES AND CHURCHES.



"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works."

Ephesians 4:16-17

THE RESOURCE TOOL KIT

Parents



COLLECTION OF AGE APPROPRIATE RESOURCES THAT EQUIP PARENTS TO TALK WITH THEIR CHILDREN ABOUT SEX AND PORNOGRAPHY

Pastors



MANUAL FOR INTEGRATION OF RESOURCES INTO CHURCHES



COLLECTION OF PROVEN RESOURCES FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN

