

I Am My Brother's Keeper

Date: Wednesday, May 9

Teacher: Joel Rennolds

Welcome to Grace Youth! We are going to be heading to small groups in a little bit, but we wanted to start that night off together getting into God's Word as we continue our series on purity and pornography, "Click Here for Damage".

There can be some disagreement in defining what is classified as pornography. For the purpose of our discussions tonight, here is what we mean: Movies, websites, and photos that are sexually explicated, such as photos and videos of individuals naked or engaging in sexual activities. I also would like to include some romance novels, teen fiction, and even internet memes — aimed at women that encourage pornographic fantasies in their mind. And yes, we are not stopping and videos; pornography can be in our imagination as well. The world may tell you otherwise, but the Word of God tells us truth that lusting after other people in our minds, which is the essence of pornography, is offensive to God. **Matthew 5:28 tells us "But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart."**

For me, this is the avenue that was always the biggest stumbling block. I would at times imagine a situation in my head or I would remember an interaction I had with a member of the opposite sex, but then I would add to it and I would make it explicated. This of course is no different than viewing an explicated video on the internet. At the end of the day, it's lust.

The purpose of pornography is clearly lust, which the scripture repeatedly condemns. But before I continue, let me first say this: *The act of desiring the unclothed body of a person is not a sin.*

Y'all are probably thinking, "Is this guy crazy?" But listen to this, because this is important: The issue is *WHICH* person's unclothed body you are lusting after. If it is the body of your wife or husband, then you are simply enjoying the gift that our good Father has given us. God actually calls that good. Perhaps more than anything else, Satan has succeeded in twisting and perverting sex. He has taken what is good and right — loving sex between a husband and wife - and replaced it with lust, pornography, adultery, and even rape. A problem or addiction with porn left unaddressed could lead to a life filled with ever-increasing wickedness and immorality — like all sin leads us to.

One of the most powerful lies in support of pornography is that it is harmless. But that is a demonic lie. Tonight I'm going to cover how porn negatively impacts both boys and girls, and dive into what our responsibility in all of this is.

How does Pornography Impact Boys?

First, let's talk about the boys. The biggest consumer of porn on the internet is boys aged 12-18. That's the ages of the young men sitting in this room here tonight.

"Death and Destruction are never satisfied, and neither are human eyes". - Pro 27:20

If we apply this verse to lust, we know that in the end, porn will never satisfy our lust, but only inflame it for more. Modern day statistics and science also back this up. Websites and videos

satisfy for a short time, but ultimately you will become bored. Eventually, you will descend into more and more destruction, seeking more and more. The National Online Resource Center on Violence against Women reported: “As pornography has become more acceptable, both legally and culturally, the level of brutality toward, and degradation of women has intensified”.

Guys, porn habits are changing the way you think about and treat women. If you have any plans of being married and possibly having a daughter one day, this should put you into crisis mode. *Your porn habits are changing the way you will treat your wife and daughter one day.* It's changing the way you think, interact, and treat the girls around you right now, and in the future.

You may be shocked by the stories you're hearing surfacing in the news today brought on by the #metoo movement. Who has heard of a story come forward of a male celebrity or icon mistreating women? If we're being realistic with the impacts of pornography and what the studies show, this could be you one day. The path that porn puts you on is one that objectifies and degrades women. It leaves the viewer with a perverted view of women and a wrong view of sex. On April 3rd, 2018, the Chicago Tribune reported: “The younger boys get to porn, the less capacity they have for empathy for girls and women, the more likely they are to become sexual offenders, the less capacity they have to actually put the building blocks of adult life into place.” Put simply: porn impacts the way you view women.

I want to encourage you to come to Grace Youth this weekend (either Saturday or Sunday) because I'll be diving into how porn is addictive. But for tonight, I need to touch on that briefly. The chemicals that are released from being aroused by pornography are *addictive* and essentially *bind the man to whatever caused it*. The natural chemical high resulting from sex was designed by God to bind a husband and wife together. We are to be well addicted to our spouse. Instead, we are developing a bind to different girls featured in videos and pictures spread out across the Internet. In short, porn impacts our sex life with our future spouse.

These are just a couple of the negative impacts porn can have on the life of young man. I challenge you guys to talk about these issues in small group later tonight and even with your parents later this week. And don't stop with just what I have brought up: if you know of other negative impacts porn may be having on you or your friends, discuss it tonight! Bring this destructive sin into the light.

How Does Pornography Impact Girls?

Now, let's talk about a few ways this harms women. Girls, some of you may be thinking that this kind of talk should just be for the boys. But, it's just as important for you as it is for them. I'm going to talk about a few of those reasons now.

The viewing of pornography among women is rapidly on the rise. In a recent study, 45 percent of females said they started “habitually and compulsively” watching pornography or engaging in sexting when they were 13-17 years old.

Nearly 1 in 4 teen girls have already shared a nude picture over text message. Today's porn culture plays a role in this increased practice by prompting girls to try to emulate what men are addicted to, in hopes to capture their attention, even for just a few short minutes. Girls, you are being indoctrinated to objectify yourself, to be a part of this world's porn culture. And this influence doesn't just come from copying the porn videos our men are addicted to. We are also emulating and becoming desensitized by our cultures celebrities — from reality TV stars to

Instagram models - sharing nudes and “sexy” photos has become the “norm” for young people today. To want a man to enjoy your unclothed body is in fact ok - but only by your husband. Do not let today’s porn culture dictate how you represent yourself, because there is nothing loving, beautiful, cherishing, or honoring of women in pornography. *Porn impacts the way you see yourselves.*

By far, the most searched for terms on the internet are related to pornography. Pornography is rampant in the world today, which leads many young women to accept this as a normal behavior among the opposite sex. Girls, if this is you, don’t settle for this line of thinking. Don’t be ok with a destructive sin pattern that will only hurt you in the long run. *God did not intend for you to have to be “OK” with porn in your future family.* Porn impacts your relationship with men.

Having said this, if you have a brother (or sister) in Christ struggling with porn addiction — pray for them, encourage them to find a mentor to give them guidance, and don’t make them feel less than, as we all struggle with sin.

What is Our Responsibility?

“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” - Proverbs 4:23

We are responsible to guard our hearts against lust. The very first talk I ever gave at Grace Youth, I lead with this verse I just read, and finished with **Ephesians 6:10-18**, which I feel is perfect to wrap up this talk with. Satan is at war for your hearts and minds. He wants to pervert sex for you. He wants to change the way you treat and view the opposite sex. He wants to impact your ability to be a good mom or dad. He wants to put you on a slippery slope that leads to destruction.

Porn is more accessible than ever, making this temptation so very difficult. The truth is that we can’t do it alone. We need to lean on the spirit that our Savior gave us. We need to lean into our small groups for accountability. We need to go to our parents with transparency. I feel that what the Lord has put on my heart is to motivate every small group to come up with a “war plan” — because we are truly in a battle. Create a war plan to defeat porn and to defeat the trap that Satan has laid out before us. Let’s make a plan to grow up to be men and women that serve the Lord and love our families and communities. Brainstorm with your small group to make a plan, and let’s find out how we can support one another, so that we will not be tempted.

Close in prayer & breakout into small groups.