

**COUNTERING CULTURE**  
**SESSION 6: The Gospel and Sexual Morality Part 1**  
**(Pornography & Sexual Addiction)**

**KEY SCRIPTURES:** Psalm 25; 51; Prov. 6:25-29; 7:1-27; Matt. 5:27-30; Mrk 7:21-23; Rom. 6:6-14; 12:1-2; 13:12-14; 1 Cor. 6:12-20; Gal. 5:13, 16-25; Eph. 5:1-3; Phil. 4:8; Col. 3:1-10; 1 Thess. 4:3-5; 2 Tim. 2:22; Titus 2:11-14; Heb. 4:15-16; James 5:16

1. What were you taught about sex when you were young? What effect, if any, has this had on your behavior, your attitude toward sex, and your view of others as a result?
2. Contrary to popular misconception, Christians, God, and the Bible are all very pro-sex. God created it. He created us. He made sex more than functional. He made it enjoyable. An entire book of the Bible (*Song of Solomon*) is devoted to romantic love, physical attraction, and sexual desire. However, even though sex is good, sex is not God. How has our culture, and our sinful human hearts, turned the beautiful sacrament of sex between a husband and wife into an insatiable idol that breeds all kinds of destructive lustful thoughts and behavior, and illicit, selfish desires? What is the difference between love and lust?
3. A 2014 Barna Survey revealed that 64% of Christian men and 15% of Christian women admitted to viewing pornography at least once a month (in comparison to 65% of men and 30% of women who identified as non-Christians and who watched porn at the same rate). 36% of Christian men between 18 and 30 view porn at least once a day. 77% of Christian men between the ages of 31 and 49 confessed to viewing pornography at work within the past few months, while 64% admitted to looking at it at least once a month. Meanwhile, at least 40% of Christian pastors also admitted to struggling with this problem. This led Joel Hesch, the founder of Proven Men Ministries, who commissioned the study, to declare: “These statistics knock the wind right out of you ... It is abundantly clear that pornography is one of the biggest unaddressed problems in the church.” Why do you think this is so? And what can the Church do to offer encouragement, healing, and helpful solutions to struggling, addicted people?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-13. Here Paul both quotes and refutes the pop culture of his day. What is meant by “*Everything is permissible for me*” (twice in v. 12)? How is this mentality still popular in our culture today? What were Paul’s three responses, and how does this wisdom relate to any potentially addictive or abusive sexual desire or behavior?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 6:14-20. “*My Body, My Choice*” has become a popular slogan in our contemporary society. The same was true in Paul’s day. How does Paul *counter culture* in this passage? What is his Spirit-inspired rationale for abstaining from sexual sin? What makes his message so radical and so necessary for Christian disciples living in today’s world?

6. David Platt writes: “Throughout Scripture and history, people have mistakenly fallen into the trap of thinking that the God-created pleasure of sex and sexuality will bring us ultimate satisfaction . . . But this isn’t true. Sex is good, but sex isn’t God. It won’t ultimately fulfill. Like any other idol, it will always take more than it gives while diverting the human heart away from the only One who’s able to give supreme joy. Whenever God gives us a negative command, He always gives two positives to help us: He provides us with something better while also protecting us from something worse.” How have you personally experienced this to be true? How would you express both the beauty of sexual activity within marriage as well as the harm of sexual activity outside God’s design?

### **APPLICATION:**

In his book, *Healing the Wounds of Sexual Addiction*, Dr. Mark R. Laaser says that those who truly desire freedom from sexual sin need to be accountable to others in order to maintain sexual purity. Establishing accountability includes the following components:

1. Begin in sincere brokenness. Truly desire to be well (cf. John 5:6).
2. Confess and repent (cf. Psalm 51:1-12)
3. Honestly express feelings and state your emotional and spiritual needs.
4. Join a well organized and well led support group made up of honest, loving people who have your permission to help hold you accountable.
5. Take one day at a time.
6. Eliminate waste and filth (e.g., block internet accessibility to porn, get rid of cable or satellite TV, etc).
7. Build new, proactive, positive behaviors; don’t just defend against attacks.
8. Die to self, and be mindful of those you love. If you are motivated only by selfish fears, you won’t get very far. However, if you remain mindful of those you really love, you realize your healing is for them as well as for yourself, and your motivation is a loving desire to never hurt them again.

### **THIS WEEK:**

Memorize 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. Confess and repent of any sexual sin in your life, past or present, and commit to glorifying God with your body.

### **RESOURCES FOR FURTHER GROWTH, STUDY & ACTION**

- **Join Ryan Hunt’s new accountability small group for men. Contact Ryan for more details: 408-234-1343.**
- **Dr. David Ferreira, North County Family Counseling, 205 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave #201, Escondido, CA, 760-489-0598. A wise and trusted Christian counselor.**
- **Route 1520. A Christ-centered recovery ministry that seeks to minister to individuals or couples impacted by pornography and sex addiction. Our purpose is to help create a culture of authenticity and transparency in which people are free take off their masks in safe community and experience the healing power of the gospel. [www.route1520.com](http://www.route1520.com)**
- **Helpful books: *At the Altar of Sexual Idolatry* by Steve Gallagher; *Healing the Wounds of Sexual Addiction*, by Dr. Mark Laaser; *Don’t Call it Love* by Patrick Carnes, Ph.D.; *Ashamed No More* by T.C. Ryan**