

Sermon Guidelines

1) Speak the truth about the consequences of viewing pornography

- Viewing pornography reduces the individual's ability to experience intimacy (sexually, emotionally, etc.) in face-to-face relationships.
- Pornography often leads spouses to question whether there is something wrong with them that their husband/wife seeks pornography instead of having a relationship with them.
- Viewing pornography establishes a pattern of "escape from life" that can be passed down through generations, whether children begin to look at pornography or use substances or have impulsive sexual relationships—all of which may be reflections of the same pattern of "escaping life."
- Resource for facts: www.fightthenewdrug.org

2) Avoid shaming language

- Most men in the church know they "shouldn't" be looking at pornography, so simply telling them not to is not telling them anything new.
- For some it may be easy to "just stop." For others, if they knew how to stop they would have quit looking at pornography a long time ago. Not knowing how to stop despite knowing that looking at pornography violates their values leads to feelings of helplessness and hopelessness. Therefore ... (see next point)

3) Emphasize grace

- The cross of Christ has torn down the dividing wall between us and God, so now nothing (even pornography) can separate us from God's love. Knowing that God loves and accepts them despite their sin can be a powerful motivator and can chip away at the wall of shame that prevents many men from seeking help.
- Grace is balanced with truth, since true love is expressed through honesty about a person's behavior AND acceptance of the person (but not the behavior).

4) Emphasize hope that the pattern of behavior does not have to continue

- Point men and women who are struggling with pornography to resources that can help them, such as support groups within the church, church counseling resources, books about sexual addiction or pornography addiction (e.g., Out of the Shadows, Stop Sex Addiction), 12 Step Groups (e.g., Sex Addicts Anonymous), Certified Sexual Addiction Therapists, internet blocking/monitoring software.

5) Emphasize radical repentance

- The idea that repentance is not simply refraining from doing a behavior, but doing the opposite; Delight in God, join an accountability Group, put in place barriers like blocking software, or take an active stand against things like sex trafficking that abuse women in a similar way as pornography.

Sermon Resources:

Sermon from Pastor Gregg Matte, Houston's First:

“Victory over Pornography”

<http://houstonsfirst.org/message/victory-over-pornography/>

Sermon from Pastor Ikki Soma, City of Refuge:

“A Free Lesson from Judah”

http://cityofrefuge.org/audio-sermons/?sermon_id=102