

Pleasant Valley
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon
Wichita KS 67204
(316) 838-4195
www.letjesusleadus.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Classes 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Classes 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

July 15, 2007

The perils of porn

by David King

"I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell" (Matt. 5:28-29).

There was a time when a man who wished to see pornography had to go out of his way to find it. Today, thanks to the internet, that's no longer the case. Vast quantities of pornography are readily available to anyone with a few clicks of a mouse. Consider the following statistics from 2006 (via *Internet Filter Review*):

- Number of pornographic websites: 42 million.
- Percentage of internet users who view online pornography: 42.7%
- Number of U.S. adults who regularly visit pornographic websites: 40 million
- Average age of first internet exposure to pornography: 11 years old
- Number of "Christians" who say that pornography is a major problem in the home: 47%

Clearly, pornography is a growing problem that poses a real threat to the moral foundation of our society.

As with every other moral issue, dealing with this problem places us in a position contrary to the prevailing culture. Pornography is now so widespread that many accept it as just a normal part of life, something that we shouldn't get all upset over. After all, "everybody does it," so what's the big deal, right?

Actually, there is much about pornography that is harmful.

First, pornography victimizes those who create it. Women who have left the porn industry relate horrible stories of what that career did to their lives. Whatever "act" they put on in front of the camera, the women who star in these productions hate what they are doing. They're in it strictly for the money.

Second, pornography teaches men a perverted image of what sexual intimacy is about. Young men who enter marriage educated only by what they have viewed on porn sites are in for a rude shock when they have to build a relationship with a "real" woman.

Third, pornography is addictive. Like alcohol, gambling, and other behaviors driven by our baser instincts, viewing porn can become a consuming activity that takes over one's life. In extreme cases, pornography can become the springboard to criminal activity involving sexual assault, or worse.

Finally, pornography destroys homes. It throws marriages into conflict, and tears families apart. And all in exchange for . . . what?

How can we avoid the harmful effects of pornography? Obviously, choose not to view it. But if you're already struggling with it, listen to what Jesus said: "pluck out your eye"—that is, take whatever drastic steps are necessary to get it out of your life. Yank the internet connection, get involved in a support group, seek counseling—whatever it takes.

The greatest peril of porn is the threat to your soul. Hell is not worth it.