

Pornography

Por-nog-ra-phy, *n.* 1. writings, photographs, movies, etc., intended to arouse sexual excitement, esp. such materials considered as having little or no artistic merit. That is the way Webster's College Dictionary defines this monster plague that seems to have besieged society. It is a parasitical creature from the pit of hell, designed to siphon off any moral or upstanding values that each child of our Heavenly Father knows in their heart is right and wholesome.

I believe it was Elder Dallin H. Oaks that illustrated the point, pornography is actually worse and more harmful than the physical ill effects and potentially lethal consequences of poison. He insightfully noted that when the body receives a substance that it deems harmful, i.e., poison, it immediately swings into action to counteract the damaging material. One might regurgitate to rid itself of the poison. The body generates white blood cells to naturally fight illness. But, with pornography, our wonderful, incredible brains capture everything in full color. It does not try to reject things that are placed before it. Quite the opposite, it stores it away in miraculous storage banks. Time and time again, images and thoughts come to our memory simply because we at some point in time stored them in our brain.

Elder S. Dillworth Young once said that he grew up herding cattle. To stay awake he would sing dozens and dozens of verses of certain cowboy songs through the long, lonely night. He sorrowfully remembered that some of those verses were not very wholesome or clean. He also said, there were many times when he did not want those verses to come into his mind, yet, they would come ever so vividly to his memory. Similar to a computer, our brain can only produce from what data or information has been placed in it. Garbage in, garbage out.

The intimate, sexual relationship in marriage is sacred. I believe it is a "type" of what we will enjoy in a much greater degree in the worlds hereafter. Our physical intimacy is some of the mortar that holds our relationships together. Unlike what the world teaches, it is not the most powerful, most important drive we possess. Give me any man that has gone a week in the desert without water or food and I would bet my twin brother's life that he would take water and a hamburger over having sex with the most gorgeous woman in the world. Is it powerful and important? Yes, it is. The Lord intended it to be strong and important. However, it was meant for the marriage relationship and to help us better understand that we are gods in embryo and that we can enjoy the blessings of "eternal lives" in the Celestial Kingdom. It should be viewed as a sacred trust.

If this drive was not strong and constant you would find that men and women would not stay together very long. By divine design this drive helps accomplish two very important things: 1) the populating of the earth with Heavenly Father's spirit children - providing mortal tabernacles for them, and, 2) creating a union of two people for the balance of their lives.

Because it is so sacred, Satan has tried from the very beginning of this world to degrade and misconstrue the true nature and beauty of sex. Lucifer would debase the beauty and sweetness of sex to the lowest, animalistic and vulgar level possible. Pornography is the antithesis of all Heavenly Father wants our intimate relationships to be. Satan portrays lust and personal

gratification as paramount. The Lord intends us to be sensitive and unselfish. Satan promotes violence, brutality and domination. The Lord expects kindness and sensitivity in sharing one with another. Satan bills sex as central to one's life. The Lord teaches us that this is only one way in which two of his children share and enjoy mortality.

Pornography solely appeals to the carnal elements of our being. Consequently it can become addictive. It promotes control of our thoughts through fantasy and illusion. How exquisitely devious Satan's plan to use pornography to encourage the children of the Lord to commit sexual transgression in their hearts and minds! Then, how totally dedicated Satan's plan to evilly inspire our sinful thoughts into sexual misconduct! Pornography is an addictive habit of pervasive destruction.

The world seems to be racing to embrace the ever-increasing plague of pornography. Technology has made it so easy through computers to turn one's office, den or family room into an adult video arcade. Bookstores are dedicating more and more space to so called "adult sections". Video rental stores are offensive and embarrassing. Television is becoming more liberal in its content. It is indeed a challenge for anyone to get through a week without having some type of an encounter with pornography. And...the more accessible it is, the more insatiable the world's diet for pornographic dung.

Now, more than any time ever in the history of the world, the Lord needs his elite to stand for the truth. He needs warriors that will take a stand against the blatant, blasphemous insults of the devil. He needs us to say, absolutely and unwaveringly, "I will not participate. I will not view or become involved in pornography in any way, shape or form". To accomplish that goal, we also need to safeguard our minds by not even "opening the door" or beginning to even entertain an activity that we think could be a preface to pornography. For example, the person who rationalizes that the swimsuit issue of Sports Illustrated would be alright to review. Don't do anything that will even plant the seed!

"This stuff is titillating, it is attractive, it is made so. **Leave it alone! Get away from it! Avoid it!** It is sleazy filth! It is rot that will do no good! You cannot afford to watch video tapes of this kind of stuff. You cannot afford to read magazines that are designed to destroy you. You can't do it, nor even watch it on television...**Stay away from it! Avoid it** like the plague because it is just as deadly, more so. The plague will destroy the body. Pornography will destroy the body and the soul. **Stay away from it!** It is as a great disease that is sweeping over the country and over the entire world. **Avoid it!** I repeat, **avoid it! Avoid it!**"

President Gordon B. Hinckley
March 1, 1997

Can we listen to the wise words of a prophet of God? Can the position of the Lord be more clear? "...O man, remember, and perish not." (Mosiah 4:30)