

IF THE DEMONS WERE TO ASK: HOW CAN WE SUBVERT CHRISTIANS?

Perhaps you have heard stories written about the Devil or demons talking about ways to pervert God's children. As I approach my topic, I am reminded of those stories, and I believe this article will be addressing one of Satan's most powerful, if not his most powerful weapon.

I have two church friends from another state that were very active religiously, but because of this weapon, they both lost their families and ended up in prison. They were caught in the devil's trap. What is that trap you say? That trap is pornography.

In years gone by, pornography was pretty much hidden from children. Unless they stumbled on a pornographic magazine, there was not much else to seduce them into this trap of Satan. Today, however, you are very well aware that pornography is everywhere. It pops up on phones and computers without invitation. Children are ensnared before they have any idea what it is.

Why is this such a powerful weapon for Satan? The answer lies in its secrecy. Men, and women, are able to see pornography without anyone else knowing. As they begin this adventure, they have no idea where it will lead. The images stay in the minds, it changes how one views sex, how one treats the opposite sex, and it actually rewires the brain.

The Bible makes it clear that we are to avoid sexual immorality because it has a lasting residual effect. It is worse than any drug, because the more we look at porn, the more we want. Just as a drug user must consume more drugs or more powerful drugs to achieve the same "high," pornography drags a person more deeply into hard-core sexual addictions and ungodly desires.

One effect of pornography is that it is addictive. It causes someone to lust, and that is the draw of pornography. Yet Jesus teaches 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."* (Matthew 5:28).

One of God's greatest gifts to mankind was in making man a sexual being. But with the gift comes the responsibility of following God's guidelines. The apostle Paul writes in Galatians 5:19-25 ***"Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ..."*** Paul also wrote that God placed the sexual relationship in marriage. Again, Paul writes: *"Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous."* (Hebrews 13:4).

There is nothing clearer in God's word than the fact that he expects us to be sexually pure. Anyone involved in pornography has placed his future life in danger and his soul in extreme danger.

The reason I say it places his life in danger refers to his quality of life. I refer you to the two families destroyed by pornography. In both cases it began when the young men were in their teens. It was simple then, but it took more and more to satisfy their addiction. Finally, it led to both men breaking the law. This is an addiction that will actually rewire the human brain.

I want to show you why porn addiction harms you—it harms your brain! If you imagine a normal electrical circuit, it has a limited electrical capacity; and just like the movies, if you exceed this capacity by overloading the circuit, a meltdown occurs! Fires break out and significant damage is done.

A similar thing happens to a brain flooded by pornography. Except because of the brain's adaptive ability, when it becomes overloaded by dopamine, it alters how it is wired. This ultimately rewrites how pleasure is perceived. <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/porn-addiction#addiction>

I realize that pornography is only one form of sexual impurity, but we might call it a “secret” sin, for those around us more than likely do not know those that are involved in this sin. Paul wrote clearly about all sexual sin in 1 Corinthians 6:9-20. I believe it is important that you consider all that Paul wrote in this passage.

*“Or do you not know that **the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God**? Do not be deceived: **neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.** “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—and God will destroy both one and the other. **The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.** And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. **Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? **You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.**”*

There is good news, however. We see in this passage that some that were involved in sexual immorality did change, for Paul says, “and such were some of you”. One person speaks of the brain’s ability to change in this manner.

Brain scientists used to think the brain was like a fixed machine—that it couldn’t be changed. However, we now know that the brain has the ability to change continuously throughout an individual’s lifetime. This is referred to as *neuroplasticity*. In fact, your brain changes *every time you think*.

The good news is neuroplasticity *works both ways*. If porn pathways and high hormone levels aren’t reinforced, they’ll eventually disappear. The brain that changes due to pornography *can change back*. It is, however, a very difficult process. It takes a long time.

One author wrote: “Ultimately, those addicted to pornography need more than a brain-change. They need a *heart-change*.”