



Adultery in the Heart

Lesson Subject: Pornography entraps its customers in a web of addictive lust.

L16. Date: March 1984. **Text:** II Peter 2:9-19. **Topic:** Pornography; Lust.

Pornography! Even the word has an unpleasant sound. It is one of the social evils abroad in our land today.

Originally, pornography meant the description of prostitutes and their trade. The Greek word *porné* (por-NAY) means a prostitute. The term is used today to refer to writings, pictures (still or motion), actions, words, etc., which are intended to arouse sexual desire. *Pornography* refers to that which is obscene, licentious, and illicit in the area of sexual materials. We apply the term to writing, photographs, paintings, conversation, etc.

Pornography is a major problem today. Attempts of our courts to define pornography have concluded that it is material that has “no redeeming social value.” But who can interpret that? A magazine with photographs of nude people would be pornographic; but if the lens setting of the camera is printed below the picture it might be classified “educational” and not pornographic.

God does not have that problem. He judges pornography by looking on the heart. Be warned against all of the lust of pollution (Titus 1:15; Hebrews 12:15; Jude 8).

I. PERVERSION; THE NATURE OF PORNOGRAPHY

Pornography teaches that human beings are mere animals or objects that exist only to be used or exploited by other human beings. It holds that the highest value is sensual pleasure. It presents sex as a base and selfish thing, not telling the truth that it is an intimate, private, and honorable expression of love. Pornography is sick sexuality. It produces prostitution,

drug abuse, homosexuality, and sex-related crimes such as rape, incest, and child-molestation.

Yet, pornography is big business. Ten leading “skin” magazines in the nation gross \$475 million each year. “Adult” film theaters take \$2 million a week in admissions. The total income from pornography is estimated at \$4 billion a year in the United States—and it is expanding. Almost half of the cartridges brought for home videotape viewing are pornographic.

There is a progress in pornography. (1) Addiction is common. One gets “hooked” as on drugs. (2) Escalation is next. There must be more deviant, bizarre, and obscene materials for one to get “kicks.” (3) Desensitization follows. One is no longer shocked, offended, or thrilled by the grossest acts. (4) Imitation is certain. Family members are often required to act out the things seen. “The trend is from explicit acts of normal sex, to deviant sex, to brutal sex and finally to cruel and inhumane acts that to the normal person might seem totally unrelated to sexual behavior” (James Robison, *Pornography: The Polluting of America*, p 27).

II. GOD: THE JUDGE OF PORNOGRAPHY (II Peter 2:9)

God must be considered in all of life. Second Peter 2:9 reports two truths that must be considered in a study of pornography.

A. God will deliver the godly out of temptation. The Christian may be tempted with opportunity or desire induced by the devil to turn attention to illicit sexual materials. It might come by radio, television, [Internet], magazines, conversation, or in the person of an attractive man or woman. But the child of God must remember the biblical injunction, “*My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not*” (Proverbs 1:10). The temptation may be strong, but God can give grace to deliver (I Corinthians 10:13).

B. God will reserve the ungodly unto a day of judgment. There is coming a “*day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men*” (II Peter 3:7). “*It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment*” (Hebrews 9:27). God’s judgment is just and “*according to truth*” (Romans 2:2). Those who do evil will be condemned. But there is a special judgment reserved for the perverts: “*Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them*” (Romans 1:32). Judgment is coming. Beware!

III. INSUBORDINATION: THE CAUSE OF PORNOGRAPHY (II Peter 2:10)

A. Pornographers follow the desires of the flesh. They “*walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness.*” Their whole goal is “*fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind*” (Ephesians 2:3). Their life-style is marked by the sexual sins, social sins, and spiritual sins listed as “*works of the flesh*” in Galatians 5:16-21.

B. Pornographers resist all forms of authority: “despise government.” It matters not to them that laws of God and man forbid their illicit trade. Their great desire is money. They risk the penalty inflicted by man (for child pornography, for instance) and by God. But the day is coming when payment in full will be made by each of them. “*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap*” (Galatians 6:7).

C. Pornographers exercise presumptuous self-will (verse 10). They are a law to themselves. They think they have the right to pollute the minds of men and women just for the sake of a financial profit. How surprised they will be one day when God calls them to account for their sins (Zechariah 7:8-14).

D. Pornographers speak evil of highest authority (verse 10). “Dignities” (even celestial beings) receive no respect from them (Jude 8, 9). But one day every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess the lordship of Jesus Christ (Philippines 2:9-11).

IV. IRREVERENCE: THE SPIRIT OF PORNOGRAPHY (II Peter 2:11, 12)

A. They rush in where angels fear to tread (verse 11) because they are vainly puffed up in their fleshly minds (Colossians 2:18). Angels cover their faces in reverence before God, but these sinners have no fear of Him (Isaiah 6:1-4).

B. They act as brute beasts, not as ethical humans (verse 12). The whole spirit of the pornographic material is satisfaction of the flesh rather than control of the flesh (Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5). “If it feels good, do it” is the philosophy followed. They forget the warning, “*Know thou that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment*” (Ecclesiastes 11:9).

C. They act in ignorance of eternal things (verse 12). Mocking the standards of morality and rejecting the government of God, they “*speak evil of the things that they understand not.*” “*There is no fear of God before their eyes*” (Romans 3:18). That is why they are so bold in their sin and perversion.

D. They will perish in their corruption (verse 12). Will all sinners, the pornographers “*shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the*

presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power” (II Thessalonians 1:9). When God purges the threshing floor of death, those sinners “he will burn with fire unquenchable” (Luke 3:17; Matthew 3:10). Be warned!

V. SENSUALITY; THE APPEAL OF PORNOGRAPHY (II Peter 2:13, 14)

A. Pornographers are sold out to sin: *“as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time”* (verse 13). Their sin is shameless (*“riot”*) and evident (*“in the day time”*). No wonder it merits the judgment of God. They shall *“receive the reward of unrighteousness”* because of their sin.

B. Pornographers pretend no sense of shame in their sin. They parade it, instead. The downward course of their way is indicated in Romans 1:28-32. Rejecting the knowledge of God, they were given over by God to reap the consequences of their sin. Their present shamelessness will become their future shame.

C. Pornographers see sin in everything they look upon: *“having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin”* (verse 14). Every person is a sex object and a potential conquest in the mind of the sensual addict. He sees no one as made in the image of God and worthy of high respect.

D. Pornographers bait and entrap those who are unstable: *“beguiling unstable souls”* (verse 14). Some even attempt to justify lust by Scriptures! These are the “evil men and seducers” of which God warns (II Timothy 3:13), who listen to “seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils” (I Timothy 4:1).

E. They are motivated by selfish greed: *“they have exercised with covetous practices”* in their hearts (verse 14). *“He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house”* (Proverbs 15:27). One can enjoy “the pleasure of sin for a season” (Hebrews 11:25), but he is wiser to look at the end—judgment.

F. They are under a curse: “cursed children” (verse 14). That curse will be the judgment of God and consignment of hell fire. What a terrible fate for a little earthly profit.

VI. SELFISHNESS; THE MOTIVE OF PORNOGRAPHY (II Peter 2:15, 16)

A. They have forsaken the right way for base profit, *“following the way of Balaam . . . who loved the wages of unrighteousness”* (verse 15). They are full of subtlety and mischief, children of the devil, enemies of

righteousness, and pervert the right ways of the Lord (Acts 13:10) for financial gain.

B. They follow to its end the way of evil, being “the son of Bosor” (verse 15). “*Bosor*” is a form of the Hebrew word for “flesh.” These live after the unregenerate flesh nature that is death and brings death (Romans 8:8, 12).

C. They love the way of sin and what they can get from it, like Balaam “who loved the wages of unrighteousness” (verse 15). There are pleasures in sin, but they are temporary and leave great suffering and regret behind.

D. They will be rebuked of God (verse 16). God rebuked Balaam through the miracle of a donkey speaking audibly and intelligibly to him (Numbers 22:22-34). He will rebuke all who live in sin.

VII. REGRET; THE END OF PORNOGRAPHY (II Peter 2:17-19)

A. Disappointment will come to them (verse 17). The pornographers deceive their customers by making promises they cannot fulfill. Like a cloud that gives no rain, or a well that has no water, so there is no satisfaction in the sensual life. As the clouds dim the brightness of a day, this filth brings gloom into the life.

B. Judgment will come on them — a judgment of spiritual darkness (verse 17). God warns, “*the mist of darkness is reserved for ever*” for them. What a long time to regret the sensual excitement of a moment. Read Jude 13; II Peter 2:4; 3:7. Notice how different it will be with the saints according to I Peter 1:4. Flee from the judgment to come upon sensuality.

C. Degrading of their persons will result (verse 18). Those who are enticed through lusts end in perversion but are never satisfied. The flesh always demands more and more. The empty and meaningless likes of the purveyor are profitless and hurtful (Proverbs 25:14; Hosea 10:13).

D. Slavery to lust will be the end: “*While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption*” (verse 19). The mind constantly turns to lust and the passions are calling for satisfaction. That is not liberty; it is bondage. Those who promise liberty are the slaves of corruption (Romans 6:16).

Stay on guard against pornography, even “soft porn.” Be careful what you see on television, [view on the Internet,] hear on radio or in conversation or music, and read in publications. “*Abstain from all appearance of evil*” (I Thessalonians 5:22) and “*keep thy heart with all diligence*” (Proverbs 4:23).

QUESTIONS

1. What is pornography?
2. Why is pornography a form of perversion?
3. Why will God judge the pornographer?
4. How is pornography related to rebellion against authority?
5. How does pornography indicate irreverence toward God?
6. How is sensuality related to pornography?
7. How might pornographic materials be made available today?
8. What can you do to rid your community of pornography?