

Lesson 3:

Victimless Crime?

“Wives of porn users develop deep psychological wounds, reporting feelings of betrayal, loss, depression, mistrust, devastation, anger, and sexual inadequacy.”³⁷

Jennifer P. Schneider

Deception

As the saying goes, the nature of deception is that you don't realize when you have been deceived. There are still many people today who continue to tout pornography as morally acceptable and a mere form of “expression.”

“Pornography is mere 'expression' only in the trivial sense that a fall from the Empire State building is a mere stumble - since it's hitting the ground that's fatal.”³⁸

There continues to be mounting evidence as to the harmful effects of pornography. Research confirms it is a significant factor in many instances of sexual assault, violent crime, rape, sexual abuse, molestation, abuse reenactment, divorce, depression, and even murder. The question of whether or not pornography is a victimless crime has been answered. The question now becomes, in the face of all the evidence why would someone continue to promote the idea that it is a victimless crime.

Views from Bundy & Flynt

Ted Bundy: I'm not blaming pornography. I'm not saying it caused me to go out and do certain things. I take full responsibility for all the things that I've done. That's not the question here. The issue is how this kind of literature contributed and helped mold and shape the kinds of violent behavior.”
Ted Bundy interview with James Dobson

Larry Flynt: “First, I'd like to think that I've helped two generations get through puberty, because we're all about having fun.”
Larry Flynt – Publisher of *Hustler Magazine*

Ted Bundy: “I'm no social scientist, and I don't pretend to believe what John Q. Citizen thinks about this, but I've lived in prison for a long time now, and I've met a lot of men who were motivated to commit violence. Without exception, every one of them was deeply involved in pornography - deeply consumed by the addiction. The F.B.I.'s own study on serial homicide shows that the most common interest among serial killers is pornographers. It's true.”

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Notes

Larry Flynt: “These days... it's all vanilla sex for me.”

Ted Bundy: “There are forces at loose in this country, especially this kind of violent pornography, where, on one hand, well-meaning people will condemn the behavior of a Ted Bundy while they're walking past a magazine rack full of the very kinds of things that send young kids down the road to being Ted Bundys. That's the irony.”

Larry Flynt: “Religion has caused more harm than any other idea since the beginning of time. There's nothing good I can say about it. People use it as a crutch.”

Looking at the Facts

“It seems so obvious: If we invent a machine, the first thing we are going to do - after making a profit - is use it to watch porn. When the projector was invented roughly a century ago, the first movies were not of damsels in distress tied to train tracks or Charlie Chaplin-style slapsticks; they were stilted porn shorts called stag films. VHS became the dominant standard for VCRs largely because Sony wouldn't allow pornographers to use Betamax; the movie industry followed porn's lead. DVDs, the Internet, cell phones. you name it, pornography planted its big flag there first, or at least shortly thereafter.” ¹¹ (Damon Brown, author of *Porn and Pong*)

A Focus on the Family poll, in 2003, showed 47% percent of families said pornography is a problem in their home.¹²

In 2004, 42% of surveyed adults indicated that their partner's use of pornography made them feel insecure, and 41% admitted that they felt less attractive due to their partner's pornography use. ¹³

A brief survey on the effects of cybersex shows how wives of porn users develop deep psychological wounds, reporting feelings of betrayal, loss, depression, mistrust, devastation, anger, and sexual inadequacy. The same survey shows more than half of those engaged in cybersex lost interest in sexual intercourse and one third of their partners lost interest as well. ¹⁴

“I have also seen in my clinical experience that pornography damages the sexual performance of the viewers. Pornography viewers tend to have problems with premature ejaculation and erectile dysfunction. Having spent so much time in unnatural sexual experiences with paper, celluloid and cyberspace, they seem to find it difficult to have sex with a real human being. Pornography is raising their expectation and demand for types and amounts of sexual experiences; at the same time it is reducing their ability to experience sex.” ¹⁵

Notes

“Never before in the history of telecommunications media in the United States has so much indecent (and obscene) material been so easily accessible by so many minors in so many American homes with so few restrictions.”¹⁶

According to an anonymous survey published in the Journal of Adolescent Health in August 2009:

- **96% of teens interviewed had Internet access, and 55.4% reported that they had visited a sexually explicit website.**

- **Adolescents exposed to these sites are more likely to have multiple lifetime sexual partners, more likely to have had more than one sexual partner in the last 3 months, and more likely to have used alcohol or other substances at last sexual encounter.** ¹⁷

“Research reveals many systemic effects of Internet pornography that are undermining an already vulnerable culture of marriage and family. Even more disturbing is the fact that the first Internet generations have not reached full-maturity, so the upper-limits of this impact have yet to be realized.” ¹⁸

Jill Manning, Sociologist

“What can be considered established is that frequent exposure of young adults (i.e., mostly students in their first year of college) to readily available erotica, explicit and graphic, but devoid of coercion, fosters a rapid overcoming of adverse reactions such as feelings of guilt, repulsion, and disgust, and an equally rapid development of unhindered enjoyment reactions. Prolonged exposure leads to habituation of excitatory reactions, however. Enjoyment diminishes as a result, and the consumption of novel materials (i.e., erotica depicting less common sexual behaviors) becomes necessary to sustain enjoyment reactions of acceptable intensity. This excitatory habituation constitutes the first phase in habituation paradigms of sexual deviancy.”¹⁹

According to a study by The Industry Standard, 70% of Internet porn traffic occurs between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., when most people are at work.²⁰

Lesson 3: Victimless Crime?

“... [T]he findings of numerous studies suggest that pornography consumption promotes sexual deviancy, sexual perpetration, and adverse sexual attitudes.” Dr. James B. Weaver ²²

“In men, prolonged exposure to pornography creates and enhances sexual callousness toward women . . . Prolonged exposure to pornography, it must be remembered, results in both a ‘loss-of-respect’ for female sexual autonomy and the disinhibition of men in the expression of aggression against women.” ²³

Dr. James B. Weaver

1. How can pornography impact someone’s life even if they never view it?

2. How do you think pornography has impacted your life?

3. What unspoken messages does a husband or wife receive from a spouse that views pornography?

4. Describe how pornography can change the attitude of someone who views it regularly?

5. Do you believe that pornography is a contributing factor to the large number of sexual crimes being committed each year? Why or why not?
