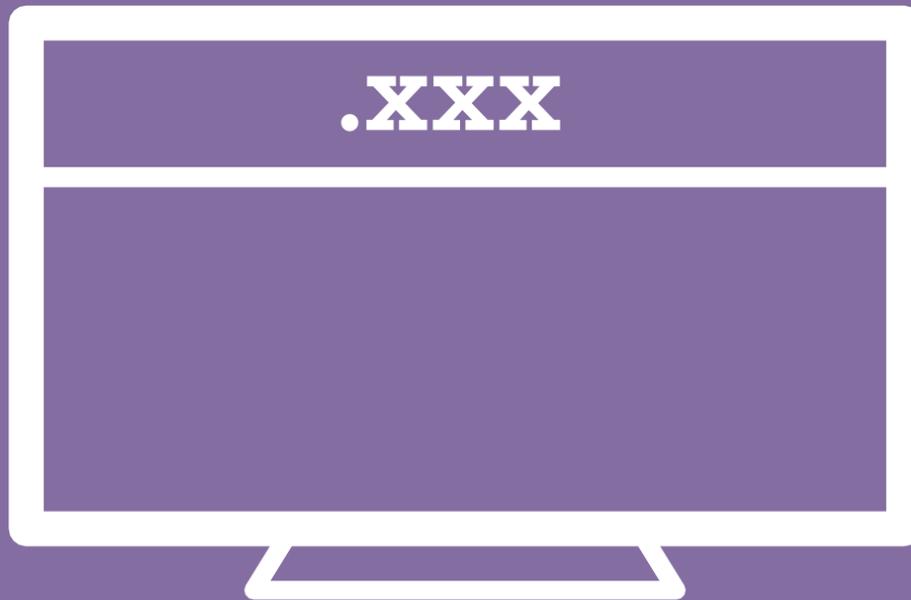


Pornography



Sexual Temptations

Pornography, Lust, Sexual Activity

I'm dealing with pornography, lust or sexual activity. You have the right piece of paper in your hands. We have taken the time to put this together so you can understand what God thinks about sexual temptations. You'll also have a chance to dig into the Bible for yourself!

Definition

Pornography: Is viewing sexually explicit pictures, reading sexually explicit literature, watching videos or other material that is intended to cause sexual arousal.

Lust: Is a longing for something that does not belong to you. In the area of sexuality, it involves desiring another individual in a sexual way. This involves thoughts about another person in an erotic way. It is also marked by an intense desire.

Sexual Activity: Is any activity that involves sexual stimulation. These activities typically go beyond just kissing. However passionate kissing can be lustful as well.

A Christian Perspective

Christians believe that sexuality is an essential part of what it means to be human. This belief comes from the understanding that God meant for sex to be part of the human experience. It is natural to have sexual desires and curiosity regarding these issues. However Christians also believe that these desires were changed and warped because of humanity's choice to sin. Because of sin humans now desire to express sexuality in ways harmful to the person and wrong according to God. These actions fall under the category of sin. When God created people He intended for their sexuality to be expressed in the context of marriage; this is the teaching of the Bible. Because of this, Christians believe that pornography, lust, and sexual activity outside of marriage are harmful to the person and a perversion of what God intended.

What does the Bible say?

Here are some specific verses that teach about these issues. On lust Jesus says "But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (Matthew 5:28) The Bible

teaches that adultery is a sin. So when Jesus said this, He was saying that lusting after another person is sin. This verse can also be applied to pornography. On Sexual Activity, the Bible says, "Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body." (1 Corinthians 6:18)

I'm struggling and want help.

WAY TO GO! THAT'S GREAT!! IT TAKES MANY PEOPLE DECADES BEFORE THEY HAVE THE COURAGE TO ADMIT THEY ARE STRUGGLING. God loves you and He's ready to forgive anything you've done and get you back on the right path (Check out 1 John 1:9).

Wanting to change is the first step. Trusting God to help you is the second. Take care to avoid situations that make you struggle. Talk to someone on the CSM team so we can be praying for you and help you get connected, you can talk to us during one of our weekend services or call the office at (512)863-6576. You don't have to handle this on your own!

Also if you are dealing with pornography on the Internet, consider getting accountability software such as 'XXX Church' found at <http://x3watch.com/>

Going Deeper

Read and reflect on 1 Corinthians 6:12-20.