

December 2016

*Your year-end gift will  
help us start the new year strong.  
Thank you and God bless!  
- Bruce*



Dear Friend,

“Warning: Content may not be suitable for all viewers”

The laptop computers, smartphones and tablets that many children and teenagers will be receiving this Christmas will not come with this warning. But maybe they should...

Mobile devices allow unfettered access to the internet at any time of the day or week. And because web content is not separated into age or developmentally appropriate areas, it is extremely easy for young people to unintentionally come across material that is disturbing, explicit or inappropriate.

Just consider what a child who loves farm animals might see after doing a search on “chicks” or the piglet movie character “Babe.” Alarming statistics show that nine out of ten 8-16 year olds have viewed pornography online, most while doing homework. In fact, without restrictions, pornography is much more difficult to avoid than it is to access. (Meanwhile, a 12-year-old is restricted from borrowing a book from the teen section of many local libraries.)

As well, more and more youth are relying on the internet to answer questions about sex. The internet offers the chance to explore a virtually limitless world of material in secret and anonymously, avoiding the need to engage in awkward or embarrassing dialogues with parents or educators.

Whether it’s accidental or intentional, many children and youth are reading and viewing a huge range of explicit material online. The problem is, viewing pornography is not an emotionally or physiologically neutral experience; it has the power to re-wire the brain and shape sexual beliefs, behaviours and attitudes. It should be very troubling then that generations of boys and girls are getting their sex education primarily from internet pornography, beginning at very young, impressionable ages.

*Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are healthy, your whole body also is full of light.  
But when they are unhealthy, your body also is full of darkness. Lk 11:34*

Just to be clear, online pornography is fundamentally different from the printed pornography of past generations. The mainstream pornography that’s prevalent today depicts dehumanizing sexual activity involving emotional, physical or sexual aggression against women. It is steeped in misogyny and is centered around the domination and humiliation of women. It is violent, degrading, and for the female participants, severely body-punishing. Today’s pornography is about “making hate” to women.

What pornography teaches about relationships and sexuality is dishonest, inaccurate and harmful; it completely dismisses and grossly distorts what God had intended for the marriage bed (1 Thess. 4:3-5).

*over please...*

**“...nine out of ten 8-16 year olds have viewed pornography online...”**

Pornography rarely presents sex in the context of a loving relationship. Instead, it teaches that sex has nothing to do with intimacy, commitment, love or mutual submission.

The proliferation, ease of access and nature of online pornography is contributing to rape culture and sexual violence against girls, especially on university campuses. Much of what is available at the click of a mouse teaches that sex is impersonal and adversarial; that non-consensual, aggressive sex is normal and desirable.

Pornography blurs the lines of consent in dangerous ways, perpetuating the idea that “no” does not actually mean “no.” It teaches sexual entitlement – the idea that sex is about self-gratification, attained at the expense of someone else’s pleasure, reluctance, pain, or humiliation. Research has shown that the earlier boys are exposed to pornography, the more likely they are to see women as sexual objects and to engage in non-consensual sex as adults.

Pornography is also shaping what both boys and girls will expect and accept in relationships. The impact is particularly evident in children exposed to pornography before age 18. Research indicates they engage in riskier behaviour, such as more sexual partners, at younger ages, are more likely to use drugs or alcohol during sexual encounters, and less likely to use contraception. Boys are more likely to perpetrate sexual harassment and girls are more likely to accept sexual harassment and to be victims of non-consensual sex.

The situation is dire, but together, we can make a difference!

Over the past few years, the EFC has been researching the issue and discussing what we can do among church leaders and politicians. This past month, the EFC and Defend Dignity co-hosted events and meetings on Parliament Hill to raise awareness of the public health impacts of pornography on sexual, emotional, psychological and relational health. The EFC is strongly recommending that Parliament consider requiring internet service providers to block pornography content at the server level, as is done in the UK, and requiring pornography sites to introduce age verification.

The EFC is also supporting MP Arnold Viersen’s motion M-47, which calls on the parliamentary health committee to study the public health effects of easily accessible, violent and degrading sexually explicit material online. We are pressing for the swift passage of this motion.

We are also planning to help churches, youth pastors and parents respond to the issue by identifying resources that will help minimize the harm to our children and grandchildren.

You can do something today to protect the next generation, their marriages and their families from the devastation caused by online pornography. Because we cannot respond effectively and strategically without your help, will you consider making a generous gift in support of the EFC this Christmas? Your donation will help generations “live as children of light (Eph 5:8).”

Sincerely,



Bruce Clemenger  
President

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or call 1-866-302-3362 to donate today.