



“The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness.”

—Matt. 6:22-23

THE DEADLY POISON OF THE MODERN ERA

INTRO

- “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” (Matt. 5:8)
- Why am I talking about this?
- “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.” (Eph. 5:8)
- “But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.” (Matt. 6:23)
- “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.” (Eph. 5:11)

INTRO

- Why is this so important?
- Why is it attractive?
- Major Problems
- Steps to Freedom
- Protecting our Children

STAGGERING STATISTICS

- *“Porn doesn’t have a demographic - it goes across all demographics.”*
— Paul Fishbein
- 60 million purposefully visit these sites (in U.S.)
 - 70% of them keep it a secret
- Among Christians: 50% of male and 20% of females are addicted
- 60% of all websites are inappropriate in nature
 - 2,500 new websites created weekly
 - Contain some 20,000 images of children

STAGGERING STATISTICS

- These sites produce \$100 BILLION annually
- More than NFL, NBA, and MLB combined!



WHY IS IT SO ADDICTIVE?

- Accessible
- Aggressive
 - It looks for you!
 - “...sin lies at the door. **And its desire is for you,** but you shall rule over it.” (Gen. 4:7)
- Affordable
- Anonymous

MAJOR PROBLEMS

- **Lowers our threshold of tolerance**
 - “Our threshold of tolerance toward sexual explicitness and exploitation has been dramatically lowered and the spiritual and psychological toll exacted by this situation is incalculable.” - Fr. John Beck, *The Sacred Gift of Life*

MAJOR PROBLEMS

- **It is addictive**
- Dr. Eric Nestler, Renown Molecular Neurobiologist
- “In summary, the work presented here provides evidence that, in addition to drugs of abuse, natural rewards induce Δ FosB levels in the nucleus accumbens...our results raise the possibility that Δ FosB induction in the NAc may mediate not only key aspects of drug addiction, **but also aspects of so-called natural additions involving compulsive consumption of natural rewards.**” *The Journal of Neuroscience*, Oct 2008

MAJOR PROBLEMS

- **It disconnects us from real relationships**
- It disconnects a person from reality
- “And the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.’” (Gen. 2:18)
- Leaves those engaged feeling empty, lonely, bored, and shameful

MAJOR PROBLEMS

- Cheapens and distorts our view of women
- Susan Fiske, Princeton University -
conducted a study that concluded that men
objectify women who are poorly dressed.

OBJECTION

- ***It's natural***
 - “Boys will be boys. Let them do what they want as long as they are...”
- ***It doesn't hurt anyone. I do it alone.***
 - Most actors die before the age of 50 due to unnatural causes - drugs or suicide
- ***It's not that bad. There are worse things I could do.***
 - “...whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” (Matt. 5:28)
- ***I'll stop when I get married***

STEPS TO FREEDOM

1. Acknowledge your problem and seek help
2. Revolving door of confession is not enough
 - This is not simply a spiritual problem
3. www.sa.org
4. CovenantEyes - www.covenanteyes.com

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

- **Be models**
 - What we model today in our marriages will likely reproduce itself in our children's lives.
- **Spend enough quality time with children**
- **Limit amount of time children watch TV, play video games, or use the internet daily**
 - Virtual reality must not become their reality

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

- **Do not have TVs and computers in private places**
- **Use internet filters and TV programming locks**
- **Take time to watch appropriate media with your children and discuss how to make good choices**
- **Monitor what they are watching and doing**

CONCLUSION

- “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.” (Matt. 6:22)
- “And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.”
- “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.” (Matt. 10:16)