

EARNESTLY CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH –July, 2023

Southview Bible Church * 135 Bennett Ave. * Council Bluffs, IA. 51503

Phone: (712) 322-5743 E-mail: pastor@southviewbible.org * Web Site: www.southviewbible.org

CRAZY PORN ADDICTIONS

1 Thessalonians 4:3 (NKJV)

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;

Ephesians 5:3 (NKJV)

3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

Christians still have the flesh (the old sin nature). And the flesh never gets any better. Our battle with the flesh continues until we get to glory. In Romans 13:14 Paul says to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.” We cannot give the flesh an opportunity or we will fall. We have to be disciplined, intentional, and diligent in our battle with the flesh.

With the advent of cell phones, it is like someone released the full force of the porn demons. We all know our dependence upon cell phones. Everyone has one and it has become almost a seemingly necessity to have one. However this has resulted in an explosive proliferation of pornography. The ease and privacy by which one can access it has become a diabolical reality.

All the stats on porn are alarming. Even a MAJORITY of professing Christians are consistently reported to be involved with porn on some level. However biblically speaking it is CRAZY for a professing Christian to say they are ADDICTED to porn. I am not saying that Christians cannot fall into serious sexual sin. We can as we all still have the flesh. However claiming to be ADDICTED to sexual sin is another thing. It claims a form of bondage that is contrary to our position in Christ.

The place to start with one who professes to be a Christian but at the same time has an “addiction” to porn is in relation to saving faith itself. Is this person truly saved? If they are in bondage to sin, they need to examine themselves as to whether they are truly in the faith. They need to TEST themselves to see if Jesus Christ is truly living in them (2 Cor. 13:5). In the world of Evangelicalism where “Easy Belivism” is prevalent so many just assume that people professing the faith are saved. In reality MANY of these people are merely professors. Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.” (Mt. 7:21)

The true Christian is now positionally dead to sin (Rom. 6:1-7). Paul says, “And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” (Gal. 5:24). Paul exhorts us to NOT BE DECEIVED, saying that the “unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom” (cf. 1 Cor. 6:9-11). Again in Ephesians 5:6 Paul says, “Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.”

In Christ we are freed from both the penalty and the power of sin. Jesus said, “if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” (Jn. 8:36). The apostle John wrote the gospel of BELIEF (the gospel of John) emphasizing we are saved by FAITH alone (Jn. 20:30-31). But he also wrote 1 John which presents a series of tests showing what true saving faith looks like. In 1 John 3:7-8 John says, “Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” The devil and his children PRACTICE an unbroken pattern of SIN! Christ came to break this pattern in the lives of those who come to faith in Him. Practice tells! “In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.” (1 John 3:10)

Thot: It is CRAZY for a person to simultaneously claim to be free from sin and to be in bondage to it.

Earnestly Contending, Pastor Dwight J. Oswald