

On Breaking the Power of Pornography V

“By what doth a young man correct his way? By observing thy words.” (Ps.118.9)

The following are some quotes from Sacred Scripture, which will be of great benefit to one who want to be free of pornography:

1. *“And be not conformed to this world: but be reformed in the newness of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and the acceptable and the perfect will of God.” (Rom 12.2)*
A vital part of the transformation of a life in Christ, is the renewal of the mind. The Scriptures, coupled with the power of God the Holy Ghost, have the ability to renew your mind from deep within. As God works in the interior of the soul, so will your life be outwardly transformed.
2. *“But every man is tempted by his own concupiscence, being drawn away and allured. Then when concupiscence hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin. But sin, when it is completed, begetteth death.” (James 1.14-15)*
Sin has a momentum to it. But we must be clear as to when the sin begins. When a thought comes to mind to do something wrong, there is no sin. The thought may even produce a physical reaction, but still, no sin. Sin begins when we *choose* to delight in or pursue a thought we know is bad. If there is no resistance at the first, then the next step becomes easier, and the next, until it results in spiritual death, or the death of grace in the soul.
3. *“Be sober and watch: because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, goeth about seeking whom he may devour. Whom resist ye, strong in faith: knowing that the same affliction befalls your brethren who are in the world.” (I Pet 5.8-9)*
All priests have to pray this every night before they go to bed. This verse is part of the Office of Compline. But how to be sober and watch? Put yourself in your Enemy’s vantage point for a moment...if you were in charge of sending temptations your way, when, where, how would you strike? With some reflection on this you’ll see the danger points, and be able to counter them.
4. *“Be not deceived, God is not mocked. For what things a man shall sow, those also shall he reap. For he that soweth in his flesh of the flesh also shall reap corruption. But he that soweth in the spirit of the spirit shall reap life everlasting.” (Gal 6.7-8)*
Do not be fooled by “It doesn’t harm anyone.” The viewing of pornography is a very serious sin. Sowing pornography in your mind and heart will destroy a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, and will harm your marriage—even destroy it—and corrupt your spiritual life. Sowing good things in your mind and heart will result in spiritual growth and eternal life.
5. *“For the lips of a harlot are like a honeycomb dropping, and her throat is smoother than oil. But her end is bitter as wormwood, and sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down into death: and her steps go in as far as hell. They walk not by the path of life: her steps are wandering, and unaccountable. Now therefore, my son, hear me, and depart not from the words of my mouth. Remove*

thy way far from her: and come not nigh the doors of her house.” (Prov 5.3-8)

Do not be fooled by the enticing smile on the cover of the magazine, the sultry promise of pleasure. The Enemy is not going to appear to you like an actor in a Hollywood version of someone possessed, with nasty black eyes and diseased skin, and a disgusting voice. No, her throat (i.e., her speech) is smoother than oil. That dirty site on the Internet? It is the door to hell.

6. *“I walked in the innocence of my heart, in the midst of my house. I did not set before my eyes any unjust thing: I hated the workers of iniquities.” (Ps 100.2-3)*
What a wonderful thing it would be to lay down to rest at the end of the day, without having set your eyes on any unjust thing! That would be a good verse to tape to your TV or computer screen.
7. *“Create a clean heart in me, O God: and renew a right spirit within my bowels.” (Ps 51.10)*
God can restore men who have fallen into serious sin. This verse was used by St. Catherine of Siena as a motto. You could use it as a battle cry: *Cor mundum crea in me Deus!*
8. *“For the rest, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever modest, whatsoever just, whatsoever holy, whatsoever lovely, whatsoever of good fame, if there be any virtue, if any praise of discipline: think on these things.” (Phil 4.8)*
You can’t fight something with nothing. You can’t expect just to remove the filthy images from the memory with nothing. Something must be a positive replacement for them.

God grant all our brethren in this parish, and our whole society, to be delivered from the sin of pornography. God grant that our young men would never start using it.