



HEARTBREAKING TRUE ACCOUNTS OF THE IMPACT OF PORN AMONG CHRIST FOLLOWERS

(As told to Josh McDowell)

- From the head of a large conservative denomination:

“Josh, we will be at the Set Free Summit. At our national men's meeting I asked how many of you are struggling with pornography? 90% raised their hands.”

- “Josh can you help me? My son left for university this year. At Christmas he told us he doesn't believe any more. ‘It's all a lie...a myth. None of it is true.’ It staggered us.”

I asked, “Does he watch porn?”

“Why do you ask?”

“Because it is so often the case in situations like this.”

“Yes he does, he left his computer open and we found layers of porn.”

- The pastor of a church (500-700 members), recently came to me and said, “Can you help...I don't know what to do about pornography. I don't know how to research it. I don't know how to talk to my people about it.”

His wife added, "Honey, tell him why we approached him.”

The pastor hesitated, looked around and then leaned in towards me, “Josh, my 22-year-old son, who is a youth pastor, just told me he is addicted to pornography. He can't stop. I don't know what to say. I don't know how to talk about it to my people. Can you help me?”

- It was a long walk ... in only four minutes, five different young people at the church approached me and said, “I'm addicted to pornography. Help me...I can't stop!”
- Then the father of a 10-year-old son said, “My son just told me he has been watching porn for 3 years (since 7 years old).”
- Recently I spoke at an institution for post-high school education – a school that is biblically-based, theologically-sound, spiritually-alive and mission-oriented.

I had just finished speaking on pornography to 5,000 participants.

“Mr. McDowell, you will never know how your talk tonight impacted my life. Last night on my dorm floor, all the guys got together and I asked them, ‘How many of you are struggling with pornography?’

“Mr. McDowell, there was not one student on our entire floor who was not struggling. They had all watched pornography. Right after your talk, I sent a text to every person on my floor, ‘We must all get together...We have got to hold each other accountable and deal with porn.’”

The next student in line approached me crying in front of everyone and she said,

“Mr. McDowell, I’m twenty-one years old. I’ve never had a boyfriend, never been kissed and never held a boy’s hand. For thirteen years I’ve been struggling with pornography (started out at eight years old). It has destroyed my life.”

The next two girls said, “Almost all of our friends are struggling with pornography.”
[Add to this every Christian school and university]

- The University of Montreal was commissioned to study the implications of porn on 18 to 25-year-olds. They had to terminate the study after several months. They couldn’t establish a control group of students in Canada who hadn’t watched it.¹
- Worldview training seminars attract the finest youth from our churches. Recently, the director of one of the top three seminars told me that through their surveys, they discovered that 70% of guys and 40% of girls watch pornography. He was shocked because they are the top Christian kids.
- After a seminar, two teens said:

“We need to talk with you. This afternoon there were twelve of us in our room. After we heard your comments on pornography, we asked the other ten kids in the room if they watched pornography. Eight of ten said ‘yes.’”
- The director of a youth ministry on the East Coast said, “Josh, I need your help. I took my top nine leaders on a leadership weekend. During our conversations the topic of pornography came up. I asked them, ‘How many of you watch porn?’ Josh, I was staggered when eight of the nine said ‘yes.’ What do I say to them?”
- Recently I spoke to three youth leaders of a mega church. I admonished them to address

the porn problem with their students. I shared the statistic that up to 75% watch porn on the Internet.

They interrupted me and said, “Oh no, it's more like 90%. It's hard to find a student who doesn't watch pornography.”

- A representative of a large missionary organization which sends out about 400 short term missionaries (all university students) stated, “Josh, we have to reject 85% of our applicants because of pornography.”
- A representative of four missionary-sending organizations said to me rather reluctantly that up to 90% of applicants have watched porn.
- An executive with a missions organization to students stated: “80% of our applicants watch porn.”
- At a Christian school in the Middle East, they took a survey of their 300 middle and high school students. The last two questions were critical. 1) “Do you watch porn on the internet?” “YES” was the answer by all 300. 2) “Do you want to stop...Need help?” The answer was an overwhelming “NO” by all 300.

Sources:

Jonathan Liew, “All men watch porn, scientists find”, Telegraph, December 2, 2009,
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/sex/6709646/All-men-watch-porn-scientists-find.html>

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