

Persons or Sex Objects? (Part 1)
(Rev. Dr. John Bartol)

The Hidden Perils Within Pornography

I am writing these lines with a heavy heart for the youth of our day who will be building the homes of tomorrow. For example, I discovered that a US government study based on over 200,000 pieces of pornography, shows that nearly 3/4 of all the material was prepared for youth and children under 18 years of age. The makers of "Porn" are making billions while poisoning young minds in the process. I believe that we have a special duty to protect our defenseless children from today's flood of moral filth.

Sex is an absorbing subject and few topics can so cause the mind to burn with curiosity. It is difficult to form an accurate definition of pornography. Literally, it means "The writing of harlots for the purpose of bringing sexual excitement." Ludwig Lowenstein, British educational psychologist writes, "Pornography might be defined as the promotion of dehumanized sexual behavior with no concern for human values." Canadian psychiatrist John White describes it as- "The ultimate dangling carrot with a rotten core."

It is important to make clear distinctions in several areas. I am not advocating a return to Victorian prudery with some of its extreme, narrowminded standards. I believe that it is very possible to have a wholesome appreciation for the beauty and symmetry of the human body without any look of lust. God is pro-sex! As C. S. Lewis once pointed out, "The pleasures of sex are God's invention, not the Devils!" Our Creators guidelines about sex are not there to deprive us of pleasure but rather as a sign of His love to protect us from harm.

Sex can be beautiful, or it can be sordid. Actually, the human sex drive is very much like fire – it can be a blessing, or a curse, depending on how it is used and controlled. Today, we are faced with a strange and tragic situation. Our generation is both sex-sodden and sex-starved. On the one hand, the Internet is feeding pornography into our homes and mobile devices 24/7. Detailed material about sex can be found by almost anyone. If knowledge alone were sufficient to achieve sexual happiness, we would be in Utopia. However, the appalling divorce rates and sexual hang-ups of our day, underscore failure at this point.

On the other hand, our generation is sex-starved. People are hotly seeking sexual knowledge, but in their pursuit the real meaning of sexuality is lost. Whereas the charge levelled at the Victorian era was "love without sex", today we seem to have gone to the opposite extreme, namely, "sex without love."

Are we prudes or responsible and civilized, when we place doors on bathrooms and bedrooms, and agree that some matters are more private than others? To insist on privacy in love and sexual relationships does not mean that they are evil. Rather it means that love needs privacy and loses something when it had an audience. Sex needs security in order to blossom. It is not a spectator sport. **(To be continued).**

