



## Pornography

Definitions of pornography vary. Pornography generally refers to anything displaying sexual content in a way that is intended to arouse people. This includes videos, printed material, music, or anything else you can see or hear. We needn't look further than TV commercials and magazine covers to see that our culture has become more "pornified" than ever.

God created Adam and Eve as perfect sexual beings ([Gen 2:18-25](#)). God's design for sex is very good. But the better the gift, the worse it can be twisted. Pornography is one of the many ways in which sin and Satan are pulling people away from relationship with God and each other. Porn takes a good thing and turns it into an idol.

With almost constant access to the internet, people now have unprecedented access to porn. It is even common to find porn without looking for it. Some researchers say the average age of pornography exposure is around 11 or 12, while others say it is even younger. Regardless of the exact age, plenty of young children are viewing pornography.

**Discuss:** In what ways do you see pornography in everyday life, without even looking for it?

Intentionally viewing pornography has become increasingly acceptable, especially among young people. According to [The Barna Group](#), 1 in 2 adults think that viewing pornography is wrong, but only 1 in 3 young people (ages 13-24) think so. (They also found that many young people think wasting water and electricity, overeating, and not recycling are morally worse than viewing pornography.) Is porn really so bad?

Watch this video about pornography's effect on the brain: 

In addition to porn being detrimental to the brain, it is also detrimental to relationships. Porn consumers often expect real relationships to mimic pornography. People become objects. Twisted, unrealistic expectations lead to broken relationships and ruined marriages. Porn has been linked to [hookup culture](#) and sex trafficking.

Like any sin, Christians are not exempt from all this. According to [Covenant Eyes](#), 64% of Christian men and 15% of Christian women say they watch porn at least once a month. But like any sin, Jesus has fully paid the price to cleanse and redeem us from it. Porn promises intimacy and satisfaction, but it leads to addiction and enslavement. Only following God's good design can lead to intimacy as it was intended. Only God himself can provide ultimate satisfaction.

**Discuss:** Parents, what worries you about your son/daughter being exposed to pornography? Share these concerns with them.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, you have given us so many good gifts, including sexuality. Give us discerning eyes and a pure heart to recognize Satan's work among us. Help us to flee from pornography and all sexual sins. Comfort us with the knowledge that our sins are paid for by Jesus' death and resurrection. In our Savior's name we pray, amen.

*Links, videos, and quotes contained within this guide do not necessarily represent the teachings of Grace Ev. Lutheran Church and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).*