

The Challenge of Pornography

We live in a "pornified" culture with big implications for discipleship and Christian formation. In this session we briefly explore how pornography "hijacks" the brain and draws us into addictive behaviours. We ask how we can help those drawn into pornography. And we address the big question facing the Church today: people know what we are against, but do they know what we are for? In our quest for sexual redemption, pornography needs be tackled in the context of a more positive - truly biblical - vision for developing a healthy sexuality.

Glynn Harrison was formerly Professor and Head of Department of Psychiatry, University of Bristol, UK, where he was also a practicing psychiatrist. Now, as an author and speaker, he is interested in issues at the interface between biblically-based faith and psychology, neuroscience, and psychiatry, as well as wider issues of culture and Christian worldview. His most recent book *A Better Story: God, Sex and Human Flourishing* turns a critical eye to the sexual revolution.

I. Cultural landscape

A. Prevalence of pornography

B. The pornographication of childhood

II. Biological and Behavioural models

III. Biblical Model:

A. Idolatry of self (Gen 3:4)

B. Origins of lust (Gen 3: 7)

B. Disordered desires (Rom 1: 21-22)

IV. Interventions:

A. Ownership: confession and repentance

B. Capture with a better vision

C. Behavioural controls and accountability

D. Re-building intimacy

Suggested Readings:

1. Struthers W (2009) *Wired for Intimacy: how pornography hi-jacks the mind* IVP Books
2. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3050060/> [technical piece from US national Institute of Mental Health]
3. Chester T (2012) *Closing the Window* IVP books (good biblical, general resource)
4. <http://www.covenanteyes.com/blog/struggling/resources-for-men/> [lots of good advice on living free of porn]