

**APRIL 2014**

# **WHO IS THAT MAN IN THE MIRROR?**

Ephesians 5:3-5

Pornography is the number one addiction for men. It is known that pornography is addictive in the secular world, but Charles Swindoll calls it "the no. 1 secret problem in your church." On his website, Insight for Living, he states "It's ruining marriages, destroying relationships, harming youth, and hurting the body of Christ." According to a ChristiaNet survey, 50 percent of Christian men are addicted to pornography. Overall, 47% of Christians indicate that pornography is a problem in the home. A *Christianity Today* survey indicated that 37% of pastors admit that pornography is currently a struggle. Here are some staggering statistics:

- 4 in 10 pastors have visited a porn site.
- Family Safe Media reports 53% of men belonging to the Christian organization Promise Keepers visit porn sites every week.
- An internet survey conducted by Saddleback Church found 30% of 6,000 pastors had viewed internet porn in the last 30 days.
- 17.8 % of all born-again Christian adults (in America) have visited sexually-oriented websites.
- 34% of readers of *Today's Christian Woman's* online newsletter admitted to intentionally accessing internet porn.
- 1 in 7 calls to Focus on the Family's Pastoral Care hotline is related to internet pornography.

Paul instructed the Ephesian believers to search their hearts and lives and jettison any bit of immorality, impurity, greed, and perverse speech. These sins, along with all others, have a contaminating and eroding effect on our lives and our witness. We become useless in doing God's work and will when we are living our lives contrary to His word and His character.

If you struggle with this "silent" sin, there is forgiveness in Jesus. Paul tells of our hope with these words, "What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Romans 7:24-25 NIV)

Search your heart and with the help of the Holy Spirit identify any areas of your life that are dishonoring to God. If you struggle with sexual addictions, there are hundreds of reputable agencies and ministries that specialize in overcoming addictions. Check out [www.XXXchurch.com](http://www.XXXchurch.com). Another ministry is Pure Life. There are also abundant resources available on the Internet and in books. Pray for someone to come into your life that will help you.

Become a man of Christ-like character. Know who you are when you look in the mirror. You are a man stepping toward his destiny. You are here for a purpose. You are on-mission with God Almighty.

