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**THE INTERNET PORNOGRAPHY
PANDEMIC:
“THE LARGEST UNREGULATED SOCIAL
EXPERIMENT IN HUMAN HISTORY”**

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**THE INTERNET PORNOGRAPHY PANDEMIC:
“THE LARGEST UNREGULATED SOCIAL
EXPERIMENT IN HUMAN HISTORY”¹**

(October 27, 2014, slightly corrected and revised)

Donna Rice Hughes²

TECHNOLOGY IS REVOLUTIONIZING our lives and providing access to a wide range of valuable services. The Internet has become a powerful educational and communications tool, placing vast new worlds of

1. Michael Seto, conversation at the first meeting of the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children’s (ICMEC) Gloram Health Coalition, Zurich, Switzerland, October 10, 2012. Seto is Director of Forensic Rehabilitation Research, Royal Ottawa Health Care Group and a member of ICMEC.

2. Donna Rice Hughes is an author, speaker, and Executive Producer and host of the Emmy award –winning Internet Safety 101 3–Part TV series on PBS. She served on the Child Online Protection Commission and the Attorney General Technology Task Force. Any mention in this article of Enough Is Enough, EIE, its Internet Safety 101 Program, or its mission is strictly informational and not for promotional purposes. The author is a practicing Christian, and some of the arguments made in this article reflect her faith. These arguments are made by the author in her individual and personal capacity and should not be attributed to, nor do they necessarily reflect the views of Enough Is Enough.

Donna Rice Hughes is the President and CEO of Enough Is Enough (EIE), a secular, not-for-profit, non-partisan 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to make the Internet safer for children and families.

knowledge in the palm of our hand. Today's youth have fully integrated the Internet into their daily lives, using technology as a powerful platform for education, communication, interaction, exploration, and self-expression. The Internet opens its users to a world that is reflective of contemporary human life, providing access to what is good, beneficial, and beautiful, but when unrestricted, it opens doors to what is ugly, depraved, dangerous, and criminal.

The continuous invasion of graphic, hard-core online pornography into cultures worldwide has been called the "largest unregulated social experiment in human history"³ and represents a hidden public health hazard we should not ignore. In 2010, the Witherspoon Institute released "The Social Costs of Pornography: A Statement of Findings and Recommendations,"⁴ the first multifaceted, multidisciplinary, scholarly review of contemporary pornography since the advent of the Internet. The report's findings conclude that pornography, especially via the Internet, harms children, women, and men and fuels pornography addiction, the breakdown of marriage, and sex trafficking. Other peer-reviewed studies have reached similar conclusions. Although much could be said about each of these conclusions, the focus of this article is to examine the impact of Internet pornography on young people.

Some of the material in this article has been taken from various materials by the author, including but not limited to Kids Online: Protecting Children in Cyberspace; Enough Is Enough's (EIE) Internet Safety 101 DVD series, workbook, website, and blogs. Special thanks to the following colleagues for their assistance with this article: Jack Hughes, Lillian Schoeppler, John Malcolm, Cathy Ruse, Dr. Donald Hilton, John Carr, Ernie Allen, Dr. Gail Dines, and Robert Peters.

3. Seto.

4. Mary Eberstadt and Mary Ann Layden, "The Social Cost of Pornography: A Statement of Findings and Recommendations" (2010) The Witherspoon Institute, <http://www.internetsafety101.org/upload/file/Social%20Costs%20of%20Pornography%20Report.pdf> (June 6, 2014). The signatories of this report represent a wide array of religious beliefs from including atheism, agnosticism, Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. The left and right American political positions are represented as well as a wide range of professional specialties including economics, medicine, psychiatry, psychology, philosophy, sociology, journalism, and law. The fact that such broad agreement exists regarding the social costs of contemporary pornography is testimony to what is now known about this program, which was once thought of as just harmless fun or a victimless crime (page 10).

THE HISTORY

For almost twenty years, children have been spoon-fed a steady diet of hard-core pornography via the Internet, with few laws or barriers to entry. Any child with open Internet access is just a click away from viewing, either intentionally or accidentally, sexually exploitive material, ranging from adult pornography (the kind of images that appear in *Playboy and Penthouse*) to prosecutable obscenity depicting graphic sex acts, live sex shows, orgies, excretory functions, bestiality, and violence. Even material depicting the actual sexual abuse of a child (child pornography)—once only found on the black market—is accessible on the Internet. This toxic material directly impacts our children’s health and mental, emotional, and sexual development. “The impact of Internet pornography on adolescents, including compulsive, addictive, and even criminal behavior, is a global trend not isolated to any particular culture or region.”⁵ It has become one of the greatest global threats to children, marriages, families, and nations. No one is immune.

According to family therapist Dr. Jill Manning, “With the Internet, the protective barrier between the sex industry and youth dissolved and the home, historically considered a safe haven, has been the very place where the sex industry is grooming our youth.”⁶ And now, with mobile Internet access via smart phones and other portable devices, “nearly a third of teens carry portable x-rated theaters in their pockets.”⁷ Unfortunately, many government officials and Internet industry executives have turned a blind eye to the problem, passing the buck to

5. Eric W. Owens, Richard J. Behun, Jill C. Manning, and Rory C. Reid, “Sexual Addiction and Compulsivity, The Impact of Internet Pornography on Adolescents: A Review of the Research,” *Taylor Francis Online*, 19, no. 1–2 (April 2012): 99–122. See also http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10720162.2012.660431#.UfH_tfldWso.

6. “Internet Safety 101 DVD Teaching Series” under “Pornography 101” (Reston, VA: Enough Is Enough, 2009).

7. Luke Gilkerson, “Pocket Porn—Nearly a third of teens carry portable X-rated theaters in their pockets,” April 15, 2014, <http://www.covenanteyes.com/2014/04/15/porn-pocket/> (accessed April 21, 2014). Gilkerson continues, “. . . now more than half (52%) of US porn use is coming from *smartphones*— yes, the *majority* of those who access porn in the Unites States are doing so from a mobile device. . . . Today, 31% of 14–17-year-olds own a smartphone, and with no restrictions, smartphones can access graphic hardcore pornography with ease.”

parents, who are usually uninformed, overwhelmed, or ill-equipped to protect their children and families from the onslaught.

THE LEGAL BACKGROUND

On June 7, 1995, at the beginning of the Internet age, addressing a group of Congressional and community leaders and media representatives at Enough Is Enough's Leadership Luncheon, this author said the following:

It's my job during the next ten minutes to dispel some popular misconceptions about pornography and expose you to the reality of this issue we face. Unfortunately, the worst and most deviant forms of illegal pornography have invaded our homes, offices and schools via the computer. Computers have emerged as the leading-edge technology for the distribution of hard-core and child pornography. This is due to the low risk of law enforcement detection, the speed of transmission and the ease of access for both children and adults. In fact, the Internet has become a central means of distributing child pornography, worldwide. Children today are increasingly computer literate, in most cases, much more so than their parents. Any child with a computer and a modem can access pornographic material in seconds, and once they've seen it, it can't be erased from their minds. Just as disturbing is the fact that we cannot protect ourselves or our children from those who derive sexual pleasure from viewing this toxic material.⁸

This event helped to shine a light on this important issue and served as the catalyst for the Communications Decency Act of 1996 (CDA), which received bipartisan support and was signed into law by President Clinton. The CDA extended to the cyberworld the same legal protections provided to children against pornography and sexual predators in the physical world.⁹ *The CDA presented an enormous opportunity to get ahead of the curve of the sexual exploitation of chil-*

8. Donna Rice Hughes, "Review of Dangers on the Internet" (speech, EIE Leadership Luncheon, Senate Russell Caucus Room, Capitol Hill, Washington, DC, June 7, 1995). See also <http://protectkids.com/donnaricehughes/EIElunch060795.htm>.

9. Specifically, the Communication Decency Act (CDA) of 1996 amended the federal obscenity laws to apply to the Internet and extended the broadcast indecency law to Internet platforms. It also contained a child stalking provision that makes it a crime to use the Internet to engage minor children in prostitution or any sexual act.

dren through the Internet. However, as soon as the ink was dry on the bill, the indecency provisions were challenged by the ACLU and other groups in court, and a federal judge entered an injunction preventing those provisions from being implemented.

Perhaps, a little history is in order. Savvy groups such as the ACLU have successfully framed all pornography as protected speech. This author fully supports the First Amendment as one of the foundational cornerstones of the Constitution. As such, not all written or visual material is protected under the First Amendment. Justice Potter Stewart infamous “I’ll know it when I see it”¹⁰ statement notwithstanding, the United States Supreme Court has ruled that there are four categories of pornography that may not be entitled to full First Amendment protection and which can be restricted or proscribed altogether: indecent material, material harmful to minors, obscene material, and child pornography, more fully described below.¹¹

1. *Indecent material* includes messages or pictures on telephone, radio, or broadcast TV that are patently offensive descriptions or depictions of sexual or excretory organs or activities. Indecency laws are designed to protect minor children (children under the age of 18) from such material without infringing on the First Amendment rights of adults.

2. *Material harmful to minors* (HTM) represents nudity or sex that has prurient appeal for minors, is offensive and unsuitable for minors, and lacks serious value for minors. Every state has “harmful to minors” laws designed to protect children from exposure to adult pornography in print and video. These laws prevent minor age children from being able to purchase or view a *Playboy* or *Penthouse* magazine or other forms of so-called soft-core pornography. (Note: While it is legal to distribute indecent and HTM materials to adults, it is illegal when knowingly sold or exhibited to minors in the physical world.)

10. Justice Potter Stewart, *concurring opinion in Jacobellis v. Ohio* 378 U.S. 184 (1964), *regarding possible obscenity in Les Amants [The Lovers]*. This 1958 French drama film, starring Jeanne Moreau, Alain Cuny, and Jean-Marc Bory, was written by Louis Malle.

11. Donna Rice Hughes and Pamela Campbell, *Kids Online: Protecting Your Children in Cyberspace* (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 1998), 55–57; Internet Safety 101 Workbook/Resource Guide (2009), 32–33; <http://www.internetsafety101.org/whatispornography.htm>.

Unfortunately, there is currently no federal indecency or harmful to minors statute that applies to the Internet.¹²

3. *Obscene material* is graphic “hard-core pornography” that focuses on sex and/or sexual violence, including close-ups of sex acts, lewd exhibition of the genitals, and deviant activities such as group sex, bestiality, torture, incest, and excretory functions. While Congress amended the federal obscenity laws in the 1996 CDA to criminalize distribution of obscene content on the Internet, these laws have not been vigorously enforced. As a result, obscene material has become so pervasive on the Internet that most Americans do not know that it is prosecutable.

4. *Child pornography*¹³ (child sex abuse images) is material that visually depicts minor children under the age of 18 engaged in actual or simulated sexual activity, including lewd exhibition of the genitals. It is illegal to produce, distribute, or possess child pornography in the United States. Although substantially undermanned and underfunded, the Justice Department and FBI have focused their enforcement efforts almost exclusively on violations of child pornography and child stalking laws. Despite these efforts, child pornography is one of the fastest growing industries on the Internet. There has been a 774% increase in the number of child pornography images and videos reviewed through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children’s Child Victim Identification Program from 2005 (1.98 million images/videos) to 2011 (17.3 million images/videos)¹⁴ Most victims of child

12. In 1997, in *Reno v. ACLU*, the Supreme Court invalidated the indecency provisions of the Communications Decency Act of 1996, which were designed to restrict children’s access to “indecent” material online. In response to this decision, Congress passed The Children’s Online Protection Act of 1998 (COPA) which mandated that U.S.–based commercial pornographers require adult verification or use of a credit card by individuals seeking access to their websites. COPA was held up in the Federal courts for eleven years, bouncing between the third circuit federal court and the U.S. Supreme Court. The intent of this “brown cyber-wrapper” was to keep minor children from having access to pornographic websites, specifically the free ‘teaser’ images and videos. However, in 2009, the Supreme Court let stand a lower appellate court ruling invalidating COPA.

13. This article will not examine the negative impact of child pornography on young people.

14. NCMEC data illustrate the explosion. Child Victim Identification Program (CVIP), 2005 – reviewed 1.98 million child pornography images and videos. 2008 – 8.6 million, a fourfold increase in three years. 2010 – 13.6 million, 2011– 17.3 million.

pornography are prepubescent with a growing trend towards depicting younger children, including, horrifyingly, infants.¹⁵

Due to the failure of the Supreme Court to uphold COPA, the failure of the Justice Department, and other law enforcement agencies to pursue violations of obscenity laws and to adequately resource child pornography investigations and prosecutions, young people today have free, easy, and anonymous access to all types of pornography, harmful to minors “adult” pornography, hard-core obscenity, and child pornography.

THE CURRENT STATE OF INTERNET PORNOGRAPHY AND YOUTH

Every child deserves a protected age of innocence and the opportunity to thrive during childhood. Their hearts and minds are innocent, tender, and trusting and need to be safeguarded from the negative influences of increasingly violent and sexualized media. Unfortunately, on-line pornography damages children, and the consequences are mostly irreversible. Pornography is “deforming the sexual development of young viewers and is used to exploit children and adolescents.”¹⁶

The Pornography Pandemic

Evil has been allowed to flourish, for the most part unchecked. In 2006, worldwide revenue from pornography was \$97 billion, more than Microsoft, Google, Amazon, eBay, Yahoo, Apple, and Netflix combined.¹⁷

The Internet has become the leading platform for distributing all types of pornography:

15. Ernie Allen, email exchange with this author, June 9, 2014. Allen is President of ICMEC (International Center for Missing and Exploited Children) and former CEO & President of NCMEC (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children). There are two qualifiers: (1) these are only the “identified” children and (2) they are only the children whose images made it into NCMEC’s CVIP. NCMEC has reviewed 104 million images since they launched CVIP in 2002.

16. Mary Eberstadt and Mary Ann Layden, “The Social Cost of Pornography,” <http://www.internetsafety101.org/upload/file/Social%20Costs%20of%20Pornography%20Report.pdf> (accessed June 6, 2014).

17. 2006 Worldwide Pornography Revenues, TopTenReviews, <http://www.toptenreviews.com/3-12-07.html> (accessed June 6, 2014).

- Porn Sites Get More Visitors Each Month Than Netflix, Amazon And Twitter Combined.¹⁸
- 30% of the Internet industry is pornography.¹⁹
- The online porn industry makes over \$3,000 per second.²⁰
- Mobile porn is expected to reach \$2.8 billion by 2015.²¹
- The United States is the largest producer and exporter of hard core pornographic DVDs and web material.²²
- A Google Trends analysis indicates that searches for “Teen Porn” have more than tripled between 2005–2013. Total searches for teen–related porn reached an estimated 500,000 daily in March 2013 — one–third of total daily searches for pornographic web sites.²³
- Of the 304 scenes analyzed, 88.2% contained physical aggression, principally spanking, gagging, and slapping,

18. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/05/03/internet-porn-stats_n_3187682.html (accessed June 6, 2014).

19. Stephen Yagielowicz, “The Internet Really is Porn,” <http://www.xbiz.com/news/146703> (accessed 6/11/14). “Anthony compiled data from Google’s DoubleClick Ad Planner to reveal that XVideos is currently the largest adult website, boasting 4.4 billion page views per month; with other adult sites, such as LiveJasmin, YouPorn, Tube8 and Pornhub all commanding vast expanses of market share, ‘that dwarf almost everything except the Googles and Facebooks of the Internet.’” “. . . that sets adult sites apart from non–adult sites; with Anthony comparing a 15–20 minute average porn site visit to a three–to–six minute visit on a news site as evidence of adult’s stickiness. . . . Anthony states that ‘while the amounts vary, typical adult websites contain 50 to 200 terabytes of porn and are responsible for nearly a third of all Internet traffic.’” “Anthony stated, ‘It’s probably not unrealistic to say that porn makes up 30 percent of the total data transferred across the Internet.’” See Sebastin Anthony, “Just how big are porn sites?” *Extreme Tech* (Apr. 4 2012), <http://www.extremetech.com/computing/123929-just-how-big-are-porn-sites>.

20. Ibid.

21. Juniper Research, “Videochat and subscription services to drive mobile adult revenues to \$2.8bn by 2015, Juniper Report finds,” Oct. 14, 2010. <http://www.juniperresearch.com/viewpressrelease.php?pr=210> (accessed December 27, 2012).

22. http://familysafemedia.com/pornography_statistics.html#important_countries (accessed June 6, 2014). Pornographic web pages by country are U. S. 244,661,900 (89%) and Germany 10,030,200 (4%).

23. Gail Dines, “A rare defeat for corporate lobbyists,” (August 1, 2013), <http://www.counterpunch.org/2013/08/01/a-rare-defeat-for-corporate-lobbyists/> (accessed June 6, 2014). Dr. Dines also analyzed the content of the three most popular “porntubes,” the portals that serve as gateways to online porn, and found that they contained 18 million teen–related pages–again, the largest single genre and about one–third of the total content.

while 48.7% of scenes contained verbal aggression, primarily name-calling. Perpetrators of aggression were usually male, whereas targets of aggression were overwhelmingly female.²⁴

- A Google search for ‘bestiality’ generated 2.7 million returns.²⁵

Connected Kids

- Among youth 12–years to 14–years, 88% in the United States used the Internet.²⁶
- 37% of 3 and 4 year olds use their parent’s tablets and smart phones as do 87% of 5 to 7 year olds.²⁷
- The mean age of first exposure to Internet pornography is 14.8 (girls) and 14.3 (boys).²⁸
- 93.2% of boys and 62.1% of girls have seen online pornography before age 18.²⁹
- “Boys aren’t the only ones affected by our porn culture. Girls, who make up a portion of the 12–to–17 year olds that comprise

24. Ana Bridges, et al., “Violence Against Women,” *Sage* 16, no. 10 (October 2010): 1065–1085. This current study analyzes the content of popular pornographic videos with the objectives of updating depictions of aggression, degradation, and sexual practices and comparing the study’s results to previous content analysis studies. Findings indicate high levels of aggression in pornography in both verbal and physical forms.

25. Google (accessed April 28, 2014).

26. “2008 World Internet Project survey of 13 countries revealed that among youth 12–years to 14–years, 88% in the United States used the Internet,” http://www.cdmc.ucla.edu/KS_Media_biblio_files/Guan%20%26%20Subrahmanyam%202009.pdf (accessed June 6, 2014).

27. http://www.familysafemedia.com/pornography_statistics.html (accessed June 6, 2014).

28. Chiara Sabina, Janis Wolak, and David Finkelhor, “The Nature and Dynamics of Internet Pornography Exposure for Youth,” *CyberPsychology & Behavior* 11, no. 6 (December 2008): 691-693. “The current study used an online survey to question a convenience sample of college students about experiences with online pornography before age 18. . . . Overall, 72.8% of participants. . . . Most exposure began when youth were ages 14-17, and boys were significantly more likely to view online pornography more often and to view more types of images. . . . Girls were significantly more likely than boys . . . to report never looking for pornography on purpose. . . .” <http://online.liebertpub.com/doi/pdfplus/10.1089/cpb.2007.0179> (accessed June 6, 2014).

29. Ibid.

the porn industry's largest consumer base, have internalized these messages too."³⁰

- 53% of boys and 28% of girls (ages 12–15) use sexually explicit pornography, most often via the Internet.³¹
- At least 44,000 primary school children and 473,000 children between ages of 6 and 17 accessed an adult website, mostly offshore, in the month of December 2013 from a computer.³²

Pornographers Targeting Kids

Pornographers understand that the sexually exploitive pornography they produce and distribute is highly addictive. If they can get children hooked at a young age when their hormones are raging and their brains and bodies are underdeveloped, they will likely have a consumer for life unless the addiction cycle is broken.

Zach, a 15 year old who was interviewed in the Internet Safety 101 DVD series, said, "I think about every person in this generation, and probably the one before us, have all looked up pornography once in their life. Even if you're not looking for it, you could be innocent on the computer . . . and it'll find you."³³

30. R. Henes, "Internet porn is ruining your relationship," *NY Daily News*, January 2, 2011.

31. J. Brown and K. L'Engle, "X-Rated: Sexual attitudes and behaviors associated with U.S. early adolescents' exposure to sexually explicit media," *Communications Research* 35, no. 1 (February 2009):129–151. See also <http://www.unc.edu/depts/jomc/teenmedia/pdf/xrated.pdf>.

32. <http://www.atvod.co.uk/news-consultations/news-consultationsnews/Atvod-publishes-research-showing-scale-of-underage-access-to-adult-websites> (accessed June 6, 2014). The AVTOD (Association for Television on Demand) research tracked the actions of youth using the internet from a desktop or laptop in December 2013. The research did not track youth accessing Internet pornography from smart phones. Most of the major offshore adult services are unregulated and allow free, unrestricted access to hardcore porno to visitors of any age, including children. This includes 23 of the 25 adult websites most commonly accessed from the UK.

33. EIE Internet Safety 101 DVD Teaching Series. Zach was among 16 teens from Orlando's House of Hope who were interviewed for the Internet Safety 101 teaching series.

Online pornographers use a variety of deceptive marketing techniques to attract viewers and lure kids. Some common marketing tactics used by Internet pornographers include the following:³⁴

- **Free Teaser Images**³⁵ – Most pornography sites do not request age verification of their visitors and offer a multitude of free samples of pictures and/or streaming videos to entice users, including
 - Sexual activity of every form (i.e., sexual intercourse, masturbation, bisexual interactions, group sex, oral sex, fetishes)
 - Cybersex and cyberchats with “live” feeds (i.e., user can view and/or interact in real time with a porn star)
 - Site “tours” (i.e., walks user through a virtual table of contents of pictures, videos, and pornographic experiences available)
- **Innocent Word Searches:** Pornographers use popular terms or innocent words that may have little or nothing to do with the content they display they display to increase traffic to their sites through search engines.
- **Misspelled Words:** Online pornographers purchase domain names with commonly–misspelled words, such as typing “boyz” instead of “boys,” which can direct an Internet surfer who misspells a word on his keyboard to sites containing extreme hard core material.”
- **Stealth Sites:** Online pornographers often purchase “Stealth URLs.” These are sites with web addresses that are close in name to the “legitimate” site.
- **Cartoon Characters and Child Icons:** Pornographers misuse popular cartoon characters such as those found at disney.com.
- **Pop-ups and Ad Banners:** Pornographers often purchase available banner space advertisements on popular websites and social networking spaces hoping to draw young users to their sites.

34. Ibid., 35, 36. The deceptive marking tactics are explored in more detail in the Internet Safety 101 Program.

35. Free porn hubs have recently emerged as the cornerstone of the commercial pornography industry’s marketing and business models.

- **Free Flash Games:** Many popular websites integrate interactive, easy-to-use games that are designed to be attractive to children, such as puzzle games, word games, card games, and uncomplicated animated games. However, pornographic games such as ‘orgasm girl’ are easily accessible to children.
- **E-mail Spam:** Otherwise known as “junk e-mail”
- **Mousetrapping:** This crafty “tech-trick” prevents users from escaping a pornographic site once they have entered it.
- **Looping:** A seemingly never-ending stream of pornographic pop-ups that appear on the computer screen that continues until the computer is shut down.
- **Porn-Napping:** Pornographers purchase expired domain names, so what was once a web address for a legitimate company takes users to a pornographic site.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT ON YOUTH

A recent *New York Times* article, “Does Porn Hurt Children,” concluded that the jury is still out with respect to the “hazardous mix of teenagers and pornography.”³⁶ Nothing could be further from the truth. Exposing minors to pornography is child sex abuse. As Internet pornography has proliferated, clinicians, psychologists, and law enforcement officials have noted an increase in the number of children seeking clinical help for issues relating to sexual exploitation, the number of children “acting out” sexually, the number of incidences of child-on-child sex attacks, and the number of incidences of child-produced child pornography. There is a growing body of peer-reviewed research supporting the unequivocal harm to youth from exposure to Internet pornography.³⁷

36. David A. Segal, “Does Porn Hurt Children,” *NY Times*, March 28, 2014.

37. Maryann Laden, PhD, Director of Sexual Trauma and Psychopathology Program Center for Cognitive Therapy, University of Pennsylvania has prepared an extensive compilation of peer reviewed research results on Sexualized Media and Kids, Pornography and Sexual Violence, Pornography and Relationship Damage, Pornography and Criminal Behavior and Attitudes. <http://www.enough.org/inside.php?id=1PCE0227W>.

Impact on the Emotional and Mental Development of Children

Children are especially susceptible to influences affecting their development. Research shows pornography short-circuits and distorts the normal personality development process and supplies misinformation about a child's sexuality, sense of self, and body that leaves the child confused, changed, and damaged. Pornography often introduces children prematurely to sexual sensations with which they are developmentally unprepared to deal.³⁸

Impact on Attitudes, Values, and Behavior

The parents' role is to instill their own personal values about relationships, sex, intimacy, love, and marriage in their children. Unfortunately, powerful lies portrayed in exploitive pornography can take the lead in educating children on very important life issues. Pornography teaches sex without love, intimacy, tender touch, responsibility, and commitment. Just as 30-second commercials can influence whether we choose one popular soft drink over another, exposure to pornography shapes our attitudes and values and, often, our behavior. When kids watch sexual acts depicted in pornography, it is no surprise they desire to act out sexually.

Teenagers also express having great difficulty bridging the gap between the porn-experience and their real-world sexual experience. The demand for today's pre-teen girls to be "porn ready" and provide porn sex when dating is daunting.

According to Courtney, age 18, "It does make them curious, just like a little girl when she watched Cinderella, you know, she wants to be just like her, and kids that watch porn, they want to be just like them. . . . We would watch it together . . . and then the guys did expect me to act out like that. But it destroyed our lives, our respect for ourselves and our relationships."³⁹

Justin, age 16, shared, "I just wanted to do what they did in the porn. I didn't even care about the relationship anymore. I just wanted

38. EIE, "Internet Safety 101DVD Teaching Series and Workbook/Resource Guide," 42.

39. EIE, "Internet Safety 101 DVD Teaching Series." Courtney was among 16 teens from Orlando's House of Hope who were interviewed for the DVD teaching series.

to have sex with as many girls as I could. . . . Girls in real life don't act like the girls in porno. . . . When you get with them, and they don't act like [porn stars]. . . . It makes you feel kind of unmanly. . . . It's disappointing."⁴⁰

The impact of porn on boys, according to sex therapist Dr. Thaddeus Birchard, is particularly profound. "Boys tend to create their sexual template by images . . . ," he says. "These pictures become watermarked on to the fabric of each individual's sexual repertory." Couples therapist Val Sampson suspects the new popularity of anal sex is entirely due to its prevalence in pornography. "It's now something that teenage boys feel they have a right to do," she says."⁴¹

[A]mong today's teenage girls, the chaperone has made a surprising and . . . disturbing comeback. Today's chaperone is called, in teen speak, a "third wheel" . . . re-invented by the girls themselves because they want protection from the sexual demands of their boyfriends. When I spoke to many teenage girls in researching the subject, they told me these demands are both "disturbing and upsetting," and they are certain they're being fuelled by what their boyfriends are watching online: hard-core, explicit porn.⁴²

40. Ibid. Justin was among 16 teens from Orlando's House of Hope who were interviewed for the Internet Safety 101 teaching series.

41. D. Aitkenhead, "Teenage Kicks: Are they hooked on porn?" www.psychologies.co.uk/are-teenagers-hooked-porn, (accessed June 6, 2014).

42. P. Marshall, "Teenage boys watching hours of internet pornography every week are treating their girlfriends like sex objects," *Daily Mail* (UK), March 8, 2010. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1255856/Teenage-boys-watching-hours-internet-pornography-week-treating-girlfriends-like-sex-objects.html>.

See also Michael Flood's article in *Child Abuse Review* in which he graphically exposes the influence of pornography users: "Videos and Internet pornography often depict sexual practices which are outside common cultural norms or even criminal, including anal intercourse, multiple partners, bondage and sadomasochism, transsexual sex, urination or defecation, bestiality and rape. Minors do encounter such material. . . . It is possible that portrayals of the non-mainstream sexual practices identified above may incite, eroticize and give legitimacy to them...However, it is clear that pornography can influence users' attitudes and adoption of particular sexual behaviors. . . ." Flood, "The harms of pornography exposure among children and young people," *Child Abuse Review*, 18, no. 6 (November 2009): 384-400. See also <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/car.v18:6/issuetoc>.

Impact on the Brain

According to Dr. W. Dean Belnap, a pediatrician and child psychiatrist, there is a critical period when a child's brain is being programmed for sexual orientation. It is during this period that the mind appears to be developing a "hardwire" for what the person will be aroused by or attracted to. Exposure to healthy sexual norms and attitudes during this critical period can result in the child developing a healthy sexual orientation. In contrast, if there is exposure to pornography during this period, thoughts of sexual deviance may become imprinted on the child's "hard drive" and become a permanent part of his or her sexual orientation.⁴³

Dr. Judith Reisman, a pioneer on the harmful impact of pornography, has done extensive research regarding the underdeveloped brain's response to pornographic stimuli. She emphasizes that a child's brain becomes psycho-pharmacologically altered and damages the child's sense of self and reality.⁴⁴

In a recent email exchange between this author and Dr. Donald J. Hilton, a distinguished neurosurgeon and neuroscience researcher, Hilton shared that there is evolving knowledge of the reward systems of the human brain and solid neuroscience research on the brain's response to pornography. He provided the following overview:⁴⁵

1. "Natural reward systems exist which change the brain, and include sexuality and pornography."⁴⁶

43. "Internet Safety 101" Workbook, 42–43; "Internet Safety 101" DVD Pornography 101 Section.

44. Judith A. Reisman, *The Psychopharmacology of Pictorial Pornography Restructuring Brain, Mind and Memory and Subverting Freedom of Speech* (The Institute for Media Education, July 2003), 12, <http://www.drjudithreisman.com/archives/brain.pdf>. In this same section, Reisman further expands, stating, "Children react with fear to the stimulus of sexual touch and sexual scenes. . . . Children's exposure to sexual triggers would produce greater or lesser states of alarm, that is trauma, resulting in "altered neural systems" with a low probability of the child victim being aware of the trauma that has altered her or his brain, mind, emotions and memory."

45. Donald Hilton, email with this author, April 24, 2014.

46. Christopher M. Olsen, "Natural Rewards, Neuroplasticity, and Non Drug Addictions," National Center for Biotechnology Information (April 24, 2014), <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3139704/> (accessed June 6, 2014).

2. “Pornography addiction is a powerful mediator of neuroplastic change in the brain.”⁴⁷
3. “Adolescents are particularly prone to addiction because:
 - their frontal executive control centers are not fully myelinated nor are they neuronally ‘pruned’; this process is completed in the mid to late 20s.
 - in the context of (a), they must process new powerful sexual drives with puberty. The pleasure ‘accelerator’ is being revved at the same time their ‘brain brake’ is incompletely formed.
4. Because of #3, they process rewards differently, including sexual rewards.⁴⁸”

Addiction/Compulsive Habituation

In her report before Congress, Dr. Jill Manning, who specializes in research and clinical work related to pornography and problematic sexual behavior, noted that studies show when a child or adolescent encounters Internet pornography, it can have lasting negative or even traumatic effects on the child’s sense of security and sexuality; that it promotes the belief that superior sexual satisfaction is attainable without having affection for one’s partner, thereby reinforcing the commoditization of sex and the objectification of humans; and that children who have been exposed to online pornography have an increased risk for developing sexual compulsions and addictive behavior.⁴⁹

Internet pornography is commonly referred to as ‘the drug of the new millennium’ and the ‘crack cocaine’ of sexual addictions. A *New York Magazine* article reported,

47. Donald L. Hilton Jr., “Pornography addiction— a supranormal stimulus considered in the context of neuroplasticity,” <http://www.socioaffectiveneuroscipsychol.net/index.php/snp/article/view/20767/29179>; <http://www.surgicalneurologyint.com/article.asp?issn=21527806;year=2011;volume=2;issue=1;spage=19;epage=19;aulast=Hilton;http://www.socioaffectiveneuroscipsychol.net/index.php/snp/article/view/23833/32589> (accessed June 6, 2014).

48. David A. Sturman and Bitia Moghaddam, “Striatum processes reward differently in adolescents versus adults,” <http://www.pnas.org/content/109/5/1719> (accessed June 6, 2014).

49. Jill Manning, “Pornography’s Impact on Marriage & The Family,” <http://www.heritage.org/research/testimony/pornographys-impact-on-marriage-amp-the-family> (accessed June 6, 2014).

Scientists speculate that a dopamine–oxytocin combo is released in the brain during orgasm, acting as “biochemical love potion,” as behavioral therapist Andrea Kuszewski calls it. It’s the reason after having sex with someone, you’re probably more inclined to form an emotional attachment. . . . You don’t have to actually have sex in order to get those neurotransmitters firing. When you watch porn, “you’re bonding with it,” Kuszewski says. “And those chemicals make you want to keep coming back to have that feeling,” which allows men to not only get off on porn, but to potentially develop a neurological attachment to it. They can, in essence, date porn.”⁵⁰

This is no doubt why God warns against sexual immorality. He wired humans to bond to a marriage partner, emotionally, sexually, physically, and mentally, and “two shall become one flesh.”⁵¹

Porn Induced Erectile Dysfunction (PIED)

According to the ANSA (Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata) news agency,

Young men who indulge in “excessive consumption” of Internet porn gradually become immune to explicit images. . . . Over time, this can lead to a loss of libido, impotence and a notion of sex that is totally divorced from real–life relations. “It starts with lower reactions to porn sites, then there is a general drop in libido and in the end it becomes impossible to get an erection,” said Carlo Foresta, head of the Italian Society of Andrology and Sexual Medicine (SIAM). There was some good news, however, as the condition was not necessarily permanent. “With proper assistance recovery is possible within a few months,” Foresta said.⁵²

50. *NY Times Magazine*, <http://nymag.com/nymag/toc/20110207/> (accessed June 6, 2014).

51. Holy Bible, Gen. 2:24 KJV.

52. “Scientists: Too Much Internet Porn May Cause Impotence,” <http://www.foxnews.com/health/2011/02/25/scientists-internet-porn-cause-impotence/> (accessed June 6, 2014). Carlo Foresta team surveyed 28,000 Italian men, and the survey revealed that many became hooked on porn as early as 14, exhibiting symptoms of so-called “sexual anorexia” by the time they reached their mid–twenties.

THE REAL WORLD CONSEQUENCES

Acting Out: Sexting

In a hyper-sexualized world, it should come as no surprise that kids feel pressured to send provocative pictures and videos (“sext” messages), and to engage in sexual acts that they are not ready to handle emotionally, physically, or psychologically. In a 2008 national survey, 39% of all teens ages 13–19 reported that they have electronically sent or posted online, nude or semi-nude pictures or videos of themselves.⁵³

The following media excerpts depict this growing trend:

One day last winter Margarite posed naked before her bathroom mirror, held up her cell phone and took a picture. Then she sent the full-length frontal photo to Isaiah, her new boyfriend. . . . Both were in eighth grade. They broke up soon after. A few weeks later, Isaiah forwarded the photo to another eighth-grade girl. . . . [T]hat girl slapped a text message on it. “Ho Alert!” she typed. “If you think this girl is a whore, then text this to all your friends.” Then she clicked open the long list of contacts on her phone and pressed ‘send’

“You can’t expect teenagers not to do something they see happening all around them,” said Susannah Stern, an associate professor at the University of San Diego who writes about adolescence and technology. “They’re practicing to be a part of adult culture,” Dr. Stern said. “And in 2011, that is a culture of sexualization and of putting yourself out there to validate who you are. . . .”⁵⁴

Like a real porn star, Becky is heavily made up and lying naked on the bed as the camera flashes. She could be just

53. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, “Sex and Tech.” Results from a survey of teen and young adults. (2008). The survey of those ages 13–26 was conducted by TRU, a global leader in research on teens and 20-somethings. The survey was fielded online to a total of 1,280 respondents—653 teens (ages 13–19) and 627 young adults (ages 20–26) between September 25, 2008 and October 3, 2008. <http://thenationalcampaign.org/resource/sex-and-tech>

54. J. Hoffman, “A girl’s nude photo, and altered lives,” *New York Times*, March 27, 2011.

another glamorous model as she poses provocatively with practiced moves. But she isn't. . . . Becky is just 17. . . . She's filming herself in a friend's bedroom. . . . Becky has not been coerced into this degrading behavior. She is posing on her own, taking photographs of herself not for profit—but for attention. Welcome to the deeply alarming new world of privileged British teenagers who have a growing obsession with pornography. . . .⁵⁵

Kids Acting Out Sexually Against Other Youth

Current research suggest that exposure to pornography can prompt kids to act out sexually against younger, smaller, and more vulnerable children.⁵⁶

Kids themselves are engaging in risky behaviors and perpetuating the cycle of child sexual abuse. To make matters worse, a new genre of extreme pornography, termed 'gonzo' depicts beating and other forms of violence as part of the sex act.

Children as young as 5 are imitating sex acts at school because they are being allowed to stay up late and watch pornography, a senior MP has warned. . . .⁵⁷

Courts have seen the number of sex offense cases involving juvenile offenders rise dramatically in recent years...and treatment professionals say the offenders are getting younger and the crimes more violent. . . . Experts say certain trends emerge among the cases of children charged with sex crimes

55. Penny Marshall, "Generation sexting," *Daily Mail* (March 18, 2009), <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-1162777/Generation-sexting-What-teenage-girls-really-internet-chill-parent.html> (accessed June 9, 2014).

56. See Olsen, "Natural Rewards, Neuroplasticity, and Non-Drug Additions"; Hilton, "Pornography addiction—a supernatural stimulus considered in the context of neuroplasticity"; John A. Hunter, Aurelio Jose Figueredo, Neil M. Malamuth, "Developmental pathways into social and sexual deviance," in *Journal of Family Violence*, 25 (September 2009): 141–148. See also a 2010 study conducted by the Internet Solutions for Kids and funded by the Centers for Disease Control Prevention, which finds viewing violent x-rated material may contribute to sexually aggressive behavior among 10–17 year olds. <http://is4k.com/press-releases/violent-pornography-linked-to-sexually-aggressive-behavior-in-children-and-adolescents/>.

57. Staff reporter, "Five-Year Olds 'Are Imitating Net Porn,'" *Daily Mail* (UK), November 20, 2009.

against other children. Many estimates range from 40% to 80% were molested themselves. And 42% have been exposed to hardcore pornography, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, an arm of the U.S. Department of Justice, said in a 2001 report.⁵⁸

Sex Trafficking

Many people are under the false assumption that trafficking only happens in other parts of the world, but the United Nations estimates that out of the more than 1.8 million children who are exploited as part of the illicit commercial sex market each year.

According to Ernie Allen, President of the International Center for Missing and Exploited Children,

Today, Internet sites market and advertise children and adults for sex, and consumers shop from the privacy of their homes or hotel rooms. And these sites are largely granted immunity by our laws. For the traffickers this is easy, low risk, and enormously profitable because of huge consumer demand. And the customers do not match society's stereotype. They don't look like criminals. They are doctors, lawyers, business executives, teachers, coaches. And they are rarely treated like criminals by prosecutors. We have to hold them accountable and attack the demand for sex with children. And we have to address the fact that the infrastructure for this insidious business is the Internet.⁵⁹

Dr. Laura Lederer, a sex trafficking expert, concluded from her research "Sex Trafficking and Illegal Pornography—Is there a Link?" that there are four clear links between pornography and the growing sex trafficking industry.⁶⁰

58. K. Kurtis, "Sex Offenders Younger, More Violent," *Associated Press*, June 9, 2007.

59. Ernie Allen, opening remarks as a panelist at the Leadership Seminar, "Child Sexual Exploitation Online: The Challenges of the Evolving Internet" (National Prayer Breakfast, Washington DC, February 6, 2014.)

60. Laura J. Lederer, "Sex trafficking and illegal pornography—Is there a link?" (Pornography Harms: Capitol Hill Briefing, June 5, 2010). See <https://www.pornharms.com>.

1. Some types of pornography actually are sex trafficking. . . . Pornography industry insiders note that the production of pornography often matches the very definition of “severe forms of trafficking,”—force, fraud or coercion are used to prompt the performance of those featured in pornography. . . .
2. Some men are trafficking and/or exploiting women and children and recording the acts they perform. . . . In a study by the Poppy Project in U.K., women had photographs taken of them by traffickers/pimps . . . while a gang-rape was taking place. Women also reported that in the places where they were trafficked pornography was constantly available to men buying sex.
3. Pornography is used in sex trafficking and the sex industry to train women and children what to do. . . . In another survey in the U.K., 35% of trafficked women were exposed to pornography, including being shown pornography to ‘groom’ them into prostitution.
4. Pornography creates and provides rationalizations for exploiters as to how and why their sexually exploitive behaviors are acceptable. . . . Norma Hotaling . . . believed that pornography . . . normalize[s] prostitution and commercial sexual exploitation . . . , allowing men to more freely engage in these criminal activities.”

The sad reality is that Internet pornography, particularly that of an extreme, deviant and violent nature, fuels the demand for sex slaves. Dr. Richard Land, President of Southern Evangelical Seminary and former President of the Southern Baptist Convention’s Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, told this author that unquestionably, “I believe that Satan has discovered that the most powerful weapon he has to destroy individuals, families, and American society is hard core internet pornography. Hard core pornography is the propaganda and advertising campaign that generates epidemics of sexual exploitation of women and children and creates an ever increasing demand that is fulfilled through sex traffic.”⁶¹

61. Richard Land, interview with the author, June 18, 2014.

THE ROUTES TO RESOLUTION

No matter how hard we try, we cannot completely protect ourselves and our loved ones in a culture that permits sexually exploitive pornography to flourish. We must all take responsibility for what has happened and join together to stop this pandemic. After having sacrificed almost two generations of children to the destructive harms of Internet pornography, it is time we collectively say “enough is enough!” We must educate parents, families, therapeutic practitioners, educators, clergy, corporate leaders, government leaders, and law enforcement about the devastating social consequences of pornography’s ubiquity in the Internet age.

A spectrum of prevention starts with one person, one family, one community, and one nation at a time to bring about widespread cultural change. Much of the groundwork has already been laid over the past twenty years.⁶² A preventative approach to create and sustain a safe, entertaining, and informative Internet environment in which children are protected from sexual predators and intrusive pornography should engage:

1. **Responsible Adults**—Raise public awareness of the threat of Internet pornography, sexual predation, and the sexual exploitation of children in order to educate, empower, and equip the public, especially parents, educators, and caring adults to proactively protect children under their care.
2. **Public sector**—Promote legal solutions by calling for aggressive enforcement of existing laws and enactment of new laws to prevent the exposure of children to pornography and sexual predators via the Internet.
3. **Private sector**—Encourage the Internet industry to comply with federal laws, implement viable technological solutions, best practices and family-friendly corporate policy to reduce and prevent these threats.
4. **Church and Faith-Based Communities**—Elevate the call and commitment to bring biblical truth, light, healing, hope, and

62. EIE multi-pronged Internet Safety prevention model was launched in 1995 to support its mission to make the Internet safer for children and families.

help to individuals, marriages, families, communities, and nations.

This strategy of a shared responsibility has been adopted by many national leaders worldwide; however, the strategy only works if each sector is actively performing its role. Protecting our children online and offline from sexual exploitation should be at the top of our list of national priorities. However, in America, significant gaps exist between the Internet's dangers to children and the level of enforcement and industry-driven action dedicated to protecting children. As a result, Internet-initiated crimes and dangers directed at young people have continued to grow exponentially, threatening the safety, security, and quality of life for children and families globally.

Role of Responsible Adults—Parents, Educators, and Child Caregivers

In this ever-changing cyberworld, parents, educators, community, and youth leaders have, by necessity, shouldered the entire responsibility to protect children under their care against lurking Internet dangers and criminal activity. Parents are the first line of defense to safeguard their children's innocence against such wickedness. Unfortunately parents are often overwhelmed, ill-informed, or ill-equipped about the nature of the threat and the resources available to help them. Sadly, even parents who are committed to being good cyber parents to ensure their children's safety in the digital world have a hard time keeping up with emerging technologies such as snap chat, smart phone apps, Instagram, and social media.

No parent or caring adult, much less an innocent child, is a match for the unscrupulous criminal behavior of a pornographer, sexual predator, or trafficker. In 2012, 44% of teens surveyed admitted they have looked at something online of which their parents would not approve. Of these, 81% said this has happened at home, and 48% said it has happened at home when their parents were home.⁶³ While parents must proactively protect their children online when using any Internet-enabled device, parental controls tools are sadly underuti-

63. Cox Communications, "Tween Internet safety survey," June 2012. <http://www.cox.com/wcm/en/aboutus/datasheet/takecharge/tween-internet-safety-survey.pdf> (accessed June 9, 2014).

lized. 28% of parents have installed software on computers to prohibit certain website visitation, only 17% have the same software on mobile devices, only 15% have the same software on gaming consoles, 18% according to parents and 11% to tweens.⁶⁴

Internet safety educational resources and programs are readily available online for both youth and adults alike.⁶⁵ The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's NetSmartz program and iSafe's K–12 safety curriculums are both excellent programs for youth of all ages. Additionally, Enough Is Enough created the Internet Safety 101 Program in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice, designed to educate, equip, and empower parents, educators, and caregivers to protect children from online pornography, sexual predators, and cyberbullies, as well as cyber–security risks and dangers related to social networking, online gaming, and mobile devices. The comprehensive program motivates and equips responsible adults to implement safety measures, including parental control tools on all Internet–enabled devices used by children.⁶⁶

Role of Public Sector

As previously mentioned, the government has failed to live up to its responsibility of protecting America's children due to its lackadaisical enforcement of obscenity laws, and the Supreme Court's failure to uphold the Child Online Protection Act. In 2000, the Child Online Protection Commission, on which this author had the honor to serve, made several recommendations to Congress including that

Government at all levels fund aggressive programs to investigate and prosecute violations of obscenity laws [. . . in order to] supplement the Government's existing effort

64. Ibid. "A total of 876 online interviews were conducted among tweens ages 10–13 and parents of tweens ages 10–13."

65. Consumers should educate themselves about which program would best suit their needs.

66. The Internet Safety 101 Program was funded by Congress and created in response to the COPA Commission's recommendation that the "Government and the private sector should undertake a major education campaign to promote public awareness of technologies and methods available to protect children online." It is an evidence–based adult curriculum that is comprised of a four–part plug 'n play DVD series, workbook, Rules 'N Tools book and website (internetsafety101.org) and can be used individually or as a small group study.

to investigate and prosecute child sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, and child pornography Such a program should be of sufficient magnitude to deter effectively illegal activity on the Internet.⁶⁷

The implementation of this recommendation is as necessary today as it was in 2000. In order to “deter illegal activity on the Internet,” the government must prioritize and adequately fund at both the state and federal levels the aggressive enforcement of obscenity laws. This will not be easy. Some online purveyors of prosecutable obscene material may follow the path of child pornographers, sex traffickers, and other criminal enterprises by using sophisticated anonymizing tools to try to cover their tracks. Child pornographers often gravitate to “Deep Web” sites that cater to their perversion, such as Lolita City, Hard Candy, Jailbait, PedeEmpire, and others, which accept payment in unregulated virtual currencies such as Bitcoin.⁶⁸ Nonetheless, law enforcement officials must receive the training and manpower to take on this task. This is a moral imperative.

Role of the Private Sector

The World Wide Web has transformed from a collection of websites to a full-fledged communicative platform, changing *where* and *how users* interact, share, and seek information. “Web 2.0” represents a paradigm shift in the way the Internet is used, facilitating creativity, information sharing, online communities, and collaboration among users. Children can upload and download content, videos, and photos through the use of any Internet-enabled devices and can communicate with an unlimited number of friends and strangers, challenging the ability of parents to monitor their Internet activities and access.

In United States, the Internet is completely open and free, which is essential. The U.S. based Internet industry has historically maintained the position that it is up to parents to manage Internet access for their children based on their family’s values. Best practices and corporate family friendly policies have evolved over the past twenty years

67. 2000 *Final Report* (available at <http://www.copacommission.org/report/recommendations.shtml>.)

68. Ernie Allen, “Child Sexual Exploitation Online: The Challenges of the Evolving Internet” (speech, Leadership Seminar, National Prayer Breakfast, Washington DC, February 6, 2014.)

to deal with the growing challenges and dangers to children on the Internet. Great advancements continue to improve the array of safety features and tools available, such as filtering, monitoring, and time limiting software to help parents, schools, and others responsible for safeguarding youth online. It is important to note that there is no silver bullet to protect children online. That said, current filtering technology is highly effective at blocking pornographic material. However, it does not work if it is not turned on. As previously mentioned, parental control tools for laptops, smartphones, tablets, gaming, and music devices are under-utilized by consumers.

Some countries, such as Russia, have already implemented measures to stop the free flow of pornography via the Internet's public airways. These efforts would not work in the U.S. since they are a form of censorship. However, a model adopted in the United Kingdom could indeed work in the U.S. In the summer of 2013, Great Britain's Prime Minister, David Cameron, who proclaimed that pornography was 'corroding childhood', proposed a voluntary national filtering program in the UK, that would not deny access to pornographic content but would require subscribers to take an affirmative step to get it. Key aspects of the UK proposal include the following:

Internet enabled device or internet-based service sold or supplied into the consumer market and likely to be owned or used by children or young people should, by default, come with filtering and blocking software preinstalled and operational to provide protection against exposure to adult content. An age-verified adult ought to be able to modify the preinstalled protective program settings or abandon them altogether, otherwise the defaults should remain; . . . UK-based web hosting companies should ensure publishers making pornography available within the UK have an effective age verification process in place.⁶⁹

All four major ISPs in the UK, which account for approximately 95 percent of the market, have implemented the new sign-up proce-

69. See John Carr's blog at <http://johnc1912.wordpress.com/2013/11/18/online-child-safety-big-things-happening/citing-Prime-Minister-David-Cameron-s-speech-outlining-the-UK-initiative>. Entire speech can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-internet-and-pornography-prime-minister-calls-for-action>. As of the writing of this article, not all the measures called for by Cameron have come to pass.

ture for new customers. Existing customers can also ask for the new filters/arrangements to be applied to their account immediately. By the end of 2014, every existing customer will have been asked by their ISP whether or not they want to use the filters—and they will have to make a decision. All this is at zero cost to the customer.⁷⁰ Additionally, Starbucks and McDonalds, both U.S.–based corporations, voluntarily comply with a “no porn via Wi-Fi” policy in the U.K., but they have not yet done so in America, despite having been formally requested to do so by this author.⁷¹

These recent events in other nations have given rise to efforts to compel the private sector to become more pro-active about the pornography pandemic. This is about corporate choice, not censorship. Despite the progress being made in the UK and Australia, many U.S. Internet industry leaders in this country have made it clear that they would fight any efforts to implement a model similar to the voluntary UK model.⁷²

“Project Wilberforce”⁷³ A New Era is Dawning

William Wilberforce once said, “You may choose to look the other way, but you can never say again that you did not know.” Like Wilberforce, we have the ability to create a better world, a “beloved” community in which all people are respected with the dignity of which Jesus of Nazareth spoke. Wilberforce’s main life goals were to abolish

70. John Carr, email communications with author, May 14, 2014.

71. Enough Is Enough sent formal letters to the CEO’s of McDonalds and Starbucks on April 9, 2014. This author is in receipt of a response by McDonald’s senior director, Public Affairs, expressing, “As a responsible business, we appreciate your concern and are looking into options for effective filtering in the U.S.” (May 28, 2014). Depending on the responses and outcomes of McDonald’s and Starbucks’s actions, Enough Is Enough is planning a “Porn Free Wifi” campaign to raise public awareness and support for each company respectively to implement effective filtering for their free Wifi access. See “Porn Free Wifi” campaign, <http://www.enough.org/inside.php?id=1BEARIW5W> (2014).

72. The UK model is similar to a proposed voluntary ISP Code of Ethical Conduct EIE introduced at the Children’s Online Summit in 1997, which was rejected by the U.S. based Internet industry at that time. Donna Rice Hughes and Pamela Campbell, “Kids Online: Protecting Your Children in Cyberspace” (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 1998), 190–191. See also http://www.enough.org/objects/ISP_Code_of_Conduct-1.pdf.

73. The vision of Enough Is Enough’s “Project Wilberforce” is to abolish the Internet-enabled sexual exploitation of children and adults and restore a culture of dignity and respect. See <http://www.enough.org/inside.php?id=1GHCH052>.

slavery and to restore manners and decency in England. In eighteenth century England, these goals were seemingly impossible, yet he succeeded.

Making the Internet safer for children and families and winning the war against pornography seems every bit as impossible today as the social injustices and challenges of Wilberforce's era. Just as mainstream businesses profited from the slave trade in eighteenth century England, mainstream businesses including some Internet giants, cable companies and major hotel chains are profiting from the multi-billion dollar commercial pornography industry.

It is critical to implement a two-sided approach as did Wilberforce—fighting against a social evil (slavery) and promoting a social good (manners). Battling the social evil of obscene pornography and its related offspring, including child pornography, sexual predation, pedophilia, sex trafficking, and the commercial sex industry, must be balanced with promoting its counterpart, a culture where “all people are respected and valued; for a childhood with a protected age of innocence; for healthy sexuality; and, for a society free from sexual exploitation.”⁷⁴ It is vital that we uphold a culture in which virtues such as dignity, respect, honor, kindness, modesty, and chivalry are celebrated.

A primary goal of Project Wilberforce is to create a much needed social and cultural shift, or “Tipping Point,” in attitudes regarding the unrelenting harms of Internet pornography. A change in public perspective about the social costs of pornography is essential. It is time to change the way America thinks about pornography. Remember when it was okay to drive without a seatbelt, drink and drive, litter our roads, hold a child in your lap instead of using a car seat, or smoke in public areas? What happened to reverse these dangerous trends? A movement happened. A movement is accomplished through the voices and actions of many people. The successful campaign against the tobacco industry and smoking is a recent example.

Currently, leaders from pro-family, anti-sex-trafficking, child sex abuse prevention, anti-pornography and child advocacy organizations, together with professionals from medical, psychiatry, psychol-

74. Enough Is Enough, Mission statement, <http://www.internetsafety101.org/abouteie.htm>.

ogy, sociology, and law are collaborating to elevate the harms of pornography from not only a moral issue but also to a rapidly growing public health pandemic.

Additionally, the success of Prime Minister Cameron's efforts to engage the Internet ISP's to proactively protect youth from online pornography provides a foundation for other nations, including the U.S., to adopt a similar model.

It took Wilberforce and his band of friends, The Clapham circle, a lifetime to bring about the end of slavery and child labor in the U.K. Their heroic efforts were birthed and bathed in prayer and in an expectant faith that God would ultimately bring victory to their noble cause.

Role of the Church and Faith-based Communities

Society's problems are not solely our government's problem. It is the church's problem. Sadly, many of today's cultural problems are the consequences of the failure of the church to function in society as God intends. America has abandoned its spiritual roots and the vision of our nation's founding fathers. As a result, America is in a moral free fall. Spiritual renewal and revival must be steeped in prayer and begin with repentance. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14 KJV). It starts with us—our own lives, our children, our family, our community, our local congregation. It is our problem.

First and foremost we must remember that this is a spiritual war—a battle between good and evil. Jesus said in John 10:10 that "Satan comes to kill, steal and destroy, but I come that they might have life." It is the power of the Gospel of Jesus to redeem, to save, to heal, and to restore broken lives. In Luke 4:18, Jesus proclaimed the good news: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised." As Christ's ambassadors and His Body on earth, followers of Jesus are called to bring this redemptive gospel message to a lost and broken world and to be salt and light in a wicked and perverse generation. The Bible ex-

horts believers to be godly stewards of our own lives, the lives of our children, and our culture.

Three primary forces work in opposition against believers to advance the Kingdom of God: the flesh, the world, and the devil. The apostle Paul teaches believers in Eph. 6:10–18, “Be strong in the Lord and the power of His might. . . . We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, rulers of darkness of this age and against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. . . .” The MacArthur Study Bible footnote to this verse states that “‘spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places’ possibly refers to such things as ‘the most depraved abominations including extreme sexual perversions, occultism and Satan worship.’”⁷⁵ There is an entire category of demonic forces behind extreme forms of the sexual perversions found in Internet pornography. *Porniea*, the Greek word meaning sexual immorality, is symbolic of idolatry in its fixation and worship of the body and body parts. Pornography is simply the graphic depiction of sexual immorality. Pornography and sexual immorality counterfeit God’s powerful gift of human sexuality.

Paul instructs believers of the necessity to put on the full armor of God . . . to stand against the wiles of devil (Eph. 6:11 KJV) in order to gain the victory in spiritual warfare. The Bible exhorts believers to continually be wise as serpents, gentle as lambs, and reminds us that our enemy roams about like a roaring lion, seeking to devour and destroy men, women, and children.

Moreover, Jesus Himself spoke very stern words: “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of these offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom offense comes!” (Matt. 18:6, 7 NKJV).

Christian parents who think their children are immune from the temptations of sexual immorality and Internet pornography are deceived. How can we expect children growing up in Christian homes to be immune from sexual temptation when Christian adults are likewise vulnerable? According to Pastor Bill Perkins, “If you don’t think you

75. MacArthur, *The John MacArthur Study Bible* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), 1997.

can fall into sexual sin, you are either godlier than David, wiser than Solomon or stronger than Samson.”⁷⁶

Is it any wonder in a culture flooded with Internet pornography, which is shrouded in anonymity, privacy and secrecy, that

- 50% of all Christian men / 20% of all Christian women are addicted to pornography⁷⁷
- 30% of pastors have viewed pornography within the last 30 days⁷⁸
- 41% of women said they had deliberately viewed or downloaded pornographic pictures and movies⁷⁹
- 34% of Christian women struggle with an addiction to pornography.⁸⁰
- 56% of divorces involve one party having “an obsessive interest in pornographic websites.”⁸¹

Wayne Detzler warns, “When counseling a person bound by sexual addiction, the greatest enemy is secrecy. By its very nature this addiction, or besetting sin, thrives on privacy. It is fed by the uncon-

76. Leadership Journal, “The leadership survey on pastors and internet pornography,” *Christianity Today*, January 1, 2001, <http://www.christianitytoday.com/le/2001/winter/12.89.html> (accessed June 9, 2014).

77. Survey, “ChristiaNet poll finds that evangelicals are addicted to porn,” *ChristianNet*, 2007, (<http://christiannews.christianet.com/1154951956.htm>) (accessed June 6, 2014).

78. Covenant Eyes, “Pornography Statistics 2014,” 21 <http://www.covenanteyes.com/pornstats/>. “In 2002, of 1,351 pastors surveyed, 54% said they had viewed Internet pornography within the last year, and 30% of these had visited within the last 30 days.” Brenton Evans, “Till porn do us part,” *FireProofMyMarriage.com*. http://www.fireproofmymarriage.com/dload.php?file=_images/_needhelp/InternetSafety.pdf (accessed June 6, 2014).

79. Pamela Pail, *Pornified: How Pornography Is Damaging Our lives, Our Relationships, and Our Families* (NY: Henry Holt & Co, 2005).

80. Ramona Richards, “Dirty Little Secret,” *Today’s Christian Woman*, September 2003, <http://www.todayschristianwoman.com/articles/2003/september/5.58a.html> (accessed June 9, 2014).

81. *The Effects of Pornography on Individuals, Marriage, Family and Community*. Marriage and Religious Inst., Family Research Council, Love and Responsibility Project: Center for Study of Catholic Higher Ed. Scribd. <http://newsbusters.org/blogs/matthew-balan/2010/07/28/cnn-highlights-pornographys-destructive-effects-society>.

trolled flow of pornographic images on the internet.”⁸² There exist today many resources, including books, and gifted counselors, to help those trapped in the struggle.

In John 8, the Apostle John shares the story of the woman brought to Jesus caught in the act of adultery. In this story, four types of people are represented:

1. **The Immoral:** The adulterous woman represents those caught or trapped in immorality or sexual brokenness.
2. **The Accuser:** The Scribes and Pharisees represent the self-righteous who condemn, judge, and cast stones.
3. **The Bystander:** The onlookers represent those who are passive and indifferent, neither stone throwers nor compassionate towards the sexual broken.
4. **The Righteous:** Jesus reveals God’s heart toward those caught in immorality. He compassionately calls the woman out of condemnation and bondage into freedom with the command to go and sin no more. He also challenges the self-righteous stone throwers to examine their own lives: “Let he who is without sin cast the first stone” (John 8:7).

Many Christians and non-Christians alike stay trapped in sexual addictions, including pornography, because the church has not historically been a safe place for the sexually broken to bring these struggles into the light of Christ’s unconditional love and forgiveness and to receive the pastoral help, counseling, and healing needed for restoration. Instead, many remain stuck in their shame, for fear of harsh judgment. In this same story, Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” Godly compassion combined with clear admonition of sin would go a long way to help those who sincerely desire freedom from the bondage of sexual addictions.

Francis Chan, in his helpful book, *Multiply*, guides believers as to God’s redemptive plan through Jesus for His church and its impact on individuals and cultures in the following passages:

82. Wayne A. Detzler, “Apologetics Counseling of Addicted People: Truth Encounter in Spiritual Warfare,” *Christian Apologetics Journal* 11, no. 1 (Spring 2013): 37.

He showed us what God intends humanity to look like, and tore down every barrier that would keep us from being the people God made us to be. Jesus' mission on earth was to see God's power, love, and healing permeate every aspect of this broken world and our broken lives. He came to see God's will done on earth as it is in heaven.⁸³

Followers of Jesus are called to reign and rule with the authority of the resurrection power and exalted position of the King of Kings who is seated in the heavenlies at the right hand of the Father. As such we must follow Jesus' model to make the church the safe place He intended it to be; and lovingly take a stand for righteousness in our land.

In closing, be encouraged as to the glories of Christ who leads His church to keep fighting the good fight of faith and to share the good news of the gospel until His return. As John MacArthur reminds us,

“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God...” (2 Cor. 3:5). One of the great tenets of scripture is the claim that Jesus Christ is completely sufficient for all matters of life and godliness (2 Pet.1:3, 4)! He is sufficient for salvation (Heb.10:10–12), [and] sanctification (Eph. 5:26, 27). . . . He is Faithful and True (Rev. 19:11); He is the Author and Finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:1, 2). . . . He is Lord of the nations: He is the Lion of Judah; the Living Word; the Rock of Salvation; the Eternal Spirit; He is the Ancient of Days; Creator and Comforter; Messiah; and He is the great I AM (John 8:58).”⁸⁴

83. Francis Chan with Mark Beuving, *Multiply: Disciples Making Disciples* (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2012), 267.

84. See John MacArthur, “Introduction to The Epistles of Paul to the Colossians,” in *The John MacArthur Study Bible* (Nashville, Thomas Nelson, 1997), 1831.