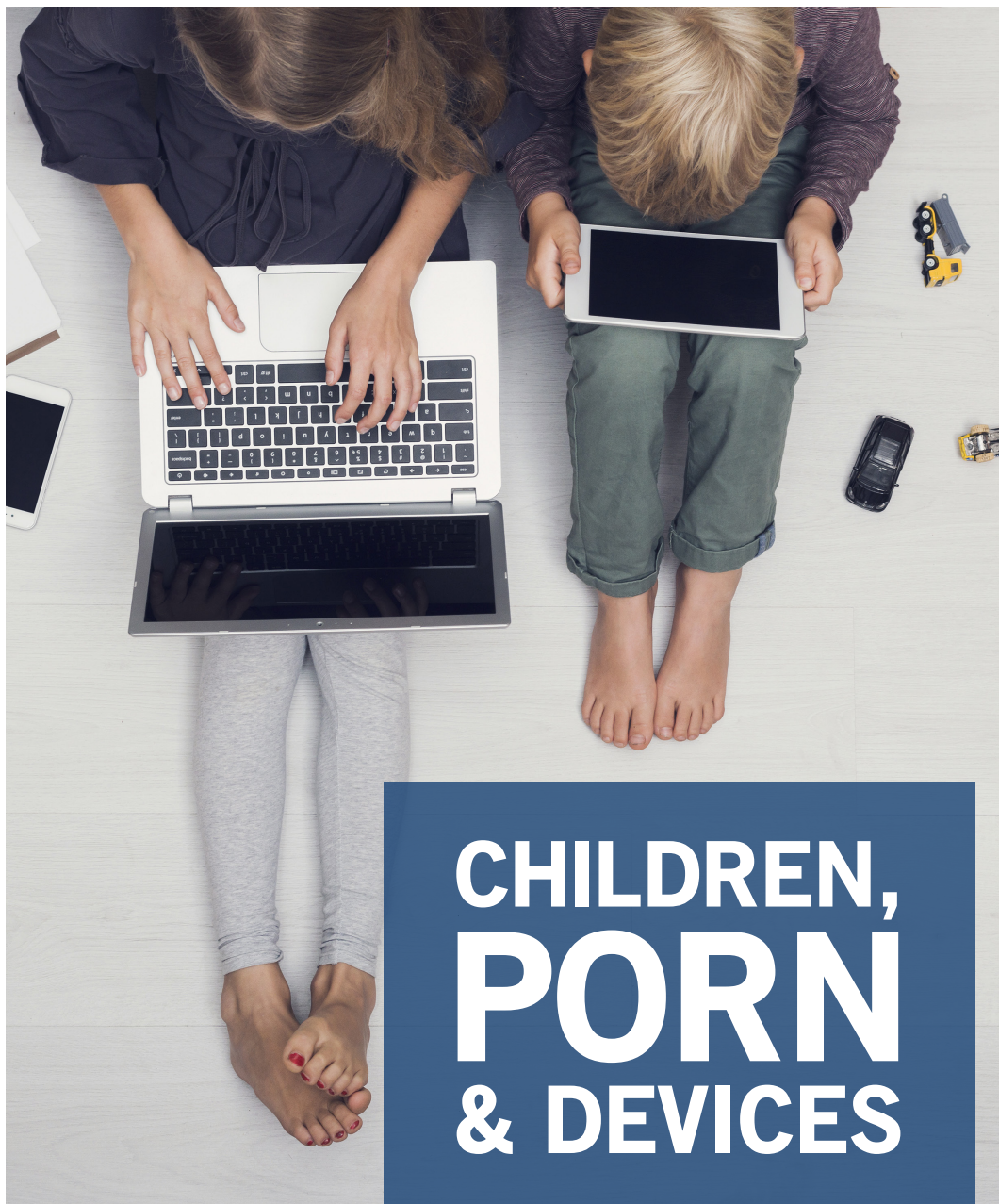


**[WARNING: EXPLICIT AND CONFRONTING CONTENT. DISCRETION ADVISED]**



# CHILDREN, PORN & DEVICES

FRAMING A WAY FORWARD

# A GUIDE FOR PARENTS & CHURCHES

**“Finally, brothers and sisters,  
whatever is true, whatever is noble,  
whatever is right, whatever is pure,  
whatever is lovely, whatever is  
admirable — if anything is excellent  
or praiseworthy — think about such  
things.” (Phillipians 4:8, NIV)**

# INTRODUCTION

Society is losing its battle with pornography but the question is, are we as parents? Are we educating and informing our children? Are we preparing them for the porn saturated world they will inevitably face or are we too scared? Do we even want to or perhaps are we struggling with it ourselves?

It's time to get real and collectively shout that enough is enough. We need to claim back our homes, World Wide Web, shopping centres, public places and popular culture from the absolute horror, violence and filth that pornographers have saturated almost every place with.

As a Family Ministries Director, I would contend that pornography is the silent killer of a large number of Christian marriages.

Collective Shout campaigner, Melinda Tankard Reist recently received this from a Gold Coast sexual violence counselling service. "In the past few years we have had a huge increase in intimate partner rape of women from 14-80+. The biggest common denominator is consumption of porn by the offender. With offenders not able to differentiate between fantasy and reality, believing women are "up for it" 24/7, ascribing to the myth that "no means no and yes means anal," oblivious to injuries caused and never, ever considering consent. We have seen a huge increase in deprivation of liberty, physical injuries, torture, drugging, filming and sharing footage without consent" (Melinda Tankard Reist, Blog Post 8 April, 2015).

Pornography is one battle that I as a father, pastor and children's/family ministries advocate do not want to lose. Now is

the time to take a stand and fight for our marriages, families and children.

Dr Tim Hawkes in "*Ten Conversations you must have with your son*," says that pornography removes the "complexity and character of a woman in favour of the carnal and compliant."

Steve Biddulph writes that sexuality when fully allowed to unfold has many aspects. It merges the sacred, the intimate, the sensual, the emotional, the creative, the funny, the tender and the intense." He then says, "There is little poetry left in the culture thrown at young people. For boys, conditioned by online porn and compliant but disengaged girls, sex may come to have no more meaning than an ice cream and pizza (*How girlhood was trashed and what we can do to get it back*" 2009).

Clement and Miles allege in their book *Screen Schooled*, that "The average teenage boy watches over seven pornographic video clips a day." If this figure is correct then we as a society really do have a problem and it is time to address this issue before it is too late for our children (Clement and Miles, *Screen Schooled*, 2018).

Pornography is the new drug, and it's often free. The attachment to "pleasure by way of two or three clicks" has taken hold and it is not letting go easily. Lies are being bought and sold for next to nothing, and souls are being crushed by the half-truths of the enemy.

It really is time to get on the Soapbox about this and fight for our children, our sons and our daughters; we need to fight for the very fabric of our society.



## DARON HAS A SOAPBOX MOMENT

There is a naked elephant in the room and our boys and girls are being trampled by it.

The naked elephant is pornography and your child is in its way.

I was recently in the car with my family and my daughter made a statement that has been troubling me ever since. "How am I going to find a decent guy who is going to love me and respect me when all the boys are watching violent porn on their phones?" I said that there were some decent Christian boys around and her response shook me....

"Where Dad? They are watching it too! Their Christian background makes no difference when it comes to this, they are watching exactly the same stuff!"

I gulped and took a deep breath while my wife gave me one of those this is your moment stares and a nudge and we launched into one

of those conversations you have to have.

We proceeded to have a discussion about what these boys were watching and what is acceptable when it comes to sex. The discussion was explicit and "R" rated and made my hair go fifty shades greyer, but it was a necessary conversation. My daughter discussed her boundaries and her views, which were considered and healthy.

When it comes to porn, it is the naked elephant in the room and we as educators and parents need to get our heads out of the sand on this one. If your child has a smart device or his friend has one, then you can almost guarantee that they have been exposed to porn.

Studies show that young males who viewed pornography were more likely to regard women as sexual objects and try to replicate what they viewed with their young female partners.

**More than 90% of young Australian boys and 60% of girls have viewed pornography, with boys on average starting at the age of 13 and more likely to be better educated. Many of our girls are watching it too and frequently take their sexual script from it.**

**([collectiveshout.org.au](http://collectiveshout.org.au))**



It is happening in our homes, churches and schools and largely we are unprepared for it. There is something inherently wrong when our girls are no longer safes in schools. And yes, it is happening in a school near you, private, public and Christian. Our "good" boys and our "popular" boys and our "normal" boys are participating in a raunch culture that is often unmonitored, unnoticed or tacitly written off. There is something really wrong when our girls are bullied, harassed and objectified at school, in our communities and online. It is time to face the naked elephant in the room.

The problem is that it is now endemic and ingrained and is invading our boys' culture and affecting our girls. Our girls are often cajoled, nagged and forced into performing, posting and sexting obscene acts just to fit in, be popular or to gain attention and be desired. These girls are left exposed, betrayed and made to feel dirty and hopeless.

There are so many factors that contribute to this toxic mix and in reality boys are acting out, in what can only be described as a pack mentality, what they are seeing in the media, sport, their computer games and in their society.

There is something really wrong when our girls are sexually harassed in the playground and classroom being called, sluts, whores and bitches. They are degraded through simulated sex acts, vulgar language and demeaning connotations.

The problem is that we as parents are largely unprepared to deal with this reality. We are largely parenting from a mobile phone and many of us are not even in our child's picture, let alone have the right relationship to address the subject.



**Here are just eight of the components that I think contribute to this culture. You might be able to name some more.**

## **01 VIDEO GAMES**

Many video games reinforce gender stereotypes. In some games as men progress they put on more armour and as women progress through the levels they lose their clothing. Players are encouraged to hurt or kill the women (for example raping and killing women in *Grand Theft Auto 5*) in order to progress to the next level.

The average Australian child spends 40 plus hours per week in front of some sort of screen and most of that time is spent in online gaming.

## **02 VIOLENT MUSIC**

Violent music (rap, heavy metal) terms regularly used sluts, bitches, whores, raping, choking, shooting. Studies have shown that men who listen to misogynistic music were more likely to be aggressive towards women and have increased adversarial sexual beliefs.

## **03 VIOLENT PORN**

Violent porn is now the norm on the web and our children are being exposed to it at an increasing younger age and they are downloading it in their bedrooms. These videos include physical aggression including pushing, biting, gagging, choking, mutilating and anal sex. They also include verbal aggression including name calling and threatening physical harm.

Soft porn on our billboards, shop windows, magazines and advertisements objectifies, pornifies and places women in subservient positions and roles. This is the wrapping paper of the society that our children grow up in.

Pornography is a potent teacher of both beliefs and behaviours. It teaches sexual behaviours and attitudes towards women and girls. Traditional models of courting such as hand holding and kissing have now been replaced by the expectation of sex acts from the very first date of an increasingly violent nature and both our girls and boys are bewildered and humiliated by this. The affects are devastating.

## **04 CULTURES OF HONOUR**

Based on a man's strength and power to enforce his will on others or to command deferential treatment. The emphasis is on a man's strengths to protect his family and possessions. They are hypersensitive to insults and threats to reputation and these threats are met with violence and aggression. In this culture women are to be modest, faithful, deferential and passive.

## **05 POOR MODELING/ MENTORING**

Poor father models or the absence of a father model increases the chances that boys grow up with a poor view of women.

## **06 PASSIVE ACTION/ FAILURE/ DENIAL TO CALL OUT RAPE CULTURE**

People in administration and power say that, "Boys will be boys," "My boy couldn't do that," "That wouldn't happen in our school," "No doesn't really mean no," "She must have led him on," "It must mean he likes you," turning a blind eye, saying the girl did something to provoke, etc. all assist in the promotion of a rape culture.

# 07 WOMEN'S SUBORDINATION

Patriarchal enclaves where women are subordinated in favour of men often using theological reasoning and a "thus says the lord" approach condoning women's subordination. Rape culture is at its most horrific when it is condoned in the name of the church and God.

# 08 DENIAL/SMART PHONE PARENTING

Parents believe that their boys wouldn't do that.... their boy is the exception. This might be so but we need to get into the world that our sons and daughters are in! We need to take the time for frank discussion on this. We need to build a healthy relationship with our boys and that starts at birth, not at age 13. Talking about this frankly and openly ameliorates the long-term effects of porn on the brain and the closer to the exposure, the better. This needs to be a regular and ongoing conversation.

This is vital dads because my daughter wants to marry a decent man one day soon and woe betides them if that boy doesn't treat her right. I am trusting you dad to take the time to be in your son's picture! That does not happen through a mobile phone.

**"Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your bodies."  
(1 Corinthians 6:18-20, NIV)**

It is time to stand up and collectively shout enough is enough and stand up for our girls and boys! This change has to start with you and me. We have to stand up and call out rape culture for what it is. It is time to take our village, our homes and raise our kids in the midst of a porn saturated society.

We need some Daniels, Josephs and Esther's today more than ever. Young men and women who can stand and be counter

cultural in a porn saturated culture. it is going to take all of us to raise them.... to have those frank discussion along the way in this journey called life.

Daron hops off his soapbox and begins to dress the naked elephant one conversation at a time!

Lets not leave Pr Daron's soapbox there. Lets have a look at some of the research and stats around children, teens and pornography.



# RESEARCH & STATS

A content analysis of the most popular porn found:

- Close to 90% of scenes included acts of physical aggression (hair pulling, gagging, choking and slapping, while only 10% of the scenes contained positive behaviours like kissing, laughing and embracing.
- 48% of the scenes contained verbal aggression.
- 94% of those scenes show aggression primarily by males against females.
- 95% of the incidents showed aggression being met with either a neutral or a pleased response by the woman.

*(Pornography and the Male Sexual Script, 2016)*

## SEXUAL EDUCATION AND SCRIPTS ARE COMING FROM PORNOGRAPHY

Another study found that pornography has become a primary source of sexual education. At the same time, mainstream commercial pornography has coalesced around a relatively homogenous script involving violence and female degradation. Cognitive script theory argues media scripts create a readily accessible heuristic model for decision-making. The more a user watches a particular media script, the more embedded those codes of behaviour become in their worldview and the more likely they are to use those scripts to act upon real life experiences. We argue pornography creates a sexual script that then guides sexual experiences.

Results showed the more pornography a man watches, the more likely he was to use it during sex, request particular pornographic sex acts of his partner and deliberately conjure images of pornography during sex to maintain arousal.

*(Pornography and the Male Sexual Script: An Analysis of Consumption and Sexual Relations, Sun, C., Bridges, A., Johnson, J.A. et al. Arch, Sex Behaviour (2016).*

## ACCEPTANCE OF MALE DOMINANCE

'Exposure to media which sexualises girls and women is associated with greater acceptance of stereotyped and sexist notions about gender and sexual roles' (APA, 2007).

A 2012 review of research on "*The Impact of Internet Pornography on Adolescents*" found that adolescent consumption of Internet pornography was linked to attitudinal changes, including acceptance of male dominance and female submission as the primary sexual paradigm, with women viewed as "sexual playthings eager to fulfil male sexual desires." The authors found that "adolescents who are intentionally exposed to violent sexually explicit material were six times more likely to be sexually aggressive than those who were not exposed."

*(The Impact of Internet Pornography on Adolescents: A Review of the Research. Eric W. Owens, Richard J. Behun, Jill C. Manning & Rory C. Reid, Published online: 9 Apr 2012).*

## MALES MORE THAN FEMALES VIEW PORN

Males are more likely than females to use pornography, to do so repeatedly, to use it for sexual excitement and masturbation, to initiate its use (rather than be introduced to it by an intimate partner), to view it alone and in same-sex groups, and to view more types of images (Cameron et al., 2005; Flood, 2007; Flood and Hamilton, 2003a).



- Over 60% of girls and 90% of boys have viewed online porn
  - Children as young as four are being referred to programs for problem sexual behaviour
  - Online Pornography is increasingly serving as the default sex educator for young people,
  - Pornography has been shown to fuel sex abuse among minors.
- (Collectiveshout.org.au)

## PORN HAS A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT

Pornography may have stronger effects among children and young people than other forms of sexual media, and it may have effects on domains of sexuality which are relatively unaffected by other forms of sexual media, for two reasons. First, pornography shows a much higher degree of sexual explicitness (by definition) than other sexual media. Second, pornography's content arguably is more sexist and hostile towards women than other sexual media content.

"An Australian survey found that 53 per cent of young people aged 11 to 17 had experienced something on the Internet they thought was offensive or disgusting (Aisbett, 2001). Pornography dominated the list of content reported. The young people said that they felt 'sick', 'shocked', 'embarrassed', 'repulsed' and 'upset' (Aisbett, 2001, p. 41).

Videos and Internet pornography often depict sexual practices which are outside common cultural norms or even criminal, including anal intercourse, multiple partners, bondage and sado- masochism,

transsexual sex, urination or defecation, bestiality and rape. Minors do encounter such material (Sabina et al., 2008). Children may also be alienated, as many adult women are (Chancer, 1998), by the subordinating representations of women common in pornography.

Among young people, there is evidence at least of associations between pornography consumption and participation in sexual practices such as anal intercourse. Male-female anal intercourse became an almost mandatory inclusion in X-rated heterosexual videos in the 1990s (Jensen and Dines, 1998).

Five studies among Swedish young people find that young men who are regular consumers of pornography are more likely to have had anal intercourse with a girl, and to have tried to perform acts they have seen in pornography, and that girls who have seen pornography also are more likely to have anal intercourse (Haggstrom-Nordin et al., 2005; Johansson and Hammarén, 2007; Rogala and Tyden, 2003; Tyden et al., 2001; Tyden and Rog).

## LIBERAL SEXUAL ATTITUDES

Regular and frequent exposure to sexual content in mainstream media produces greater sexual knowledge and more liberal sexual attitudes among children and young people, as a series of reviews document (APA, 2007; Huston et al., 1998; Strasburger and Wilson, 2002; Thornburgh and Lin, 2002; Ward, 2003). Experimental studies document that children and young people exposed to sexual media content have greater sexual knowledge (about such topics as pregnancy, menstruation, homosexuality and prostitution) than control groups, and they are more accepting of pre-, extra- or non-marital sexual relations (Huston et al.).



## SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Perhaps the most troubling impact of pornography on children and young people is its influence on sexual violence. A wide range of studies on the effects of pornography have been conducted among young people aged 18 to 25, as well as older populations. Across these, there is consistent and reliable evidence that exposure to pornography is related to male sexual aggression against women (Flood and Hamilton, 2003a). This association is strongest for violent pornography and still reliable for non-violent pornography, particularly by frequent users (Malamuth et al., 2000).

Perhaps even more troubling is the finding that growing numbers of adolescents are being convicted of possession of child pornography (Moultrie, 2006), with a New Zealand study among offenders finding that the largest group of Internet traders of child pornography are aged 15 to 19 (Carr, 2004).

Exposure to pornography may increase children's and young people's own vulnerability to sexual abuse and exploitation. Some adult perpetrators use pornography as a deliberate strategy to undermine children's abilities to avoid, resist, or escape sexual abuse (Russell and Purcell, 2005). More generally, given that pornography encourages sexist and sexually objectifying attitudes among girls and women, it may increase their vulnerability to violence. For example, an Italian study found associations among adolescent girls between viewing pornographic films and being a victim of sexual violence (Bonino et al., 2006), although the causal mechanisms are unclear.





## GROWING ADDICTIONS

There is an emerging scholarship on sexual, internet and cybersex 'addiction' which suggests that some pornography consumers come to use pornography in ways which are obsessive, compulsive, and have damaging consequences for themselves or others (Cooper et al., 2004; Young, 2008).

Josh McDowell emphasised that young people are increasingly becoming addicted to pornography, adding that it is the greatest threat to the body of Christ in 2,000 years.

"This is destroying pastors, youth pastors and more Christians than anything by far in history," said McDowell. "The number one demographic is 12- to 25-year-olds, there's no difference in and out of the church."

He added that 5 per cent of fundamental, evangelical pastors watch porn while 80 per cent of youth pastors have a problem with porn as well. McDowell pointed out that porn provides only a momentary satisfaction and porn addicts often seek other opportunities to satisfy their sexual desires" (Josh McDowell 2013).

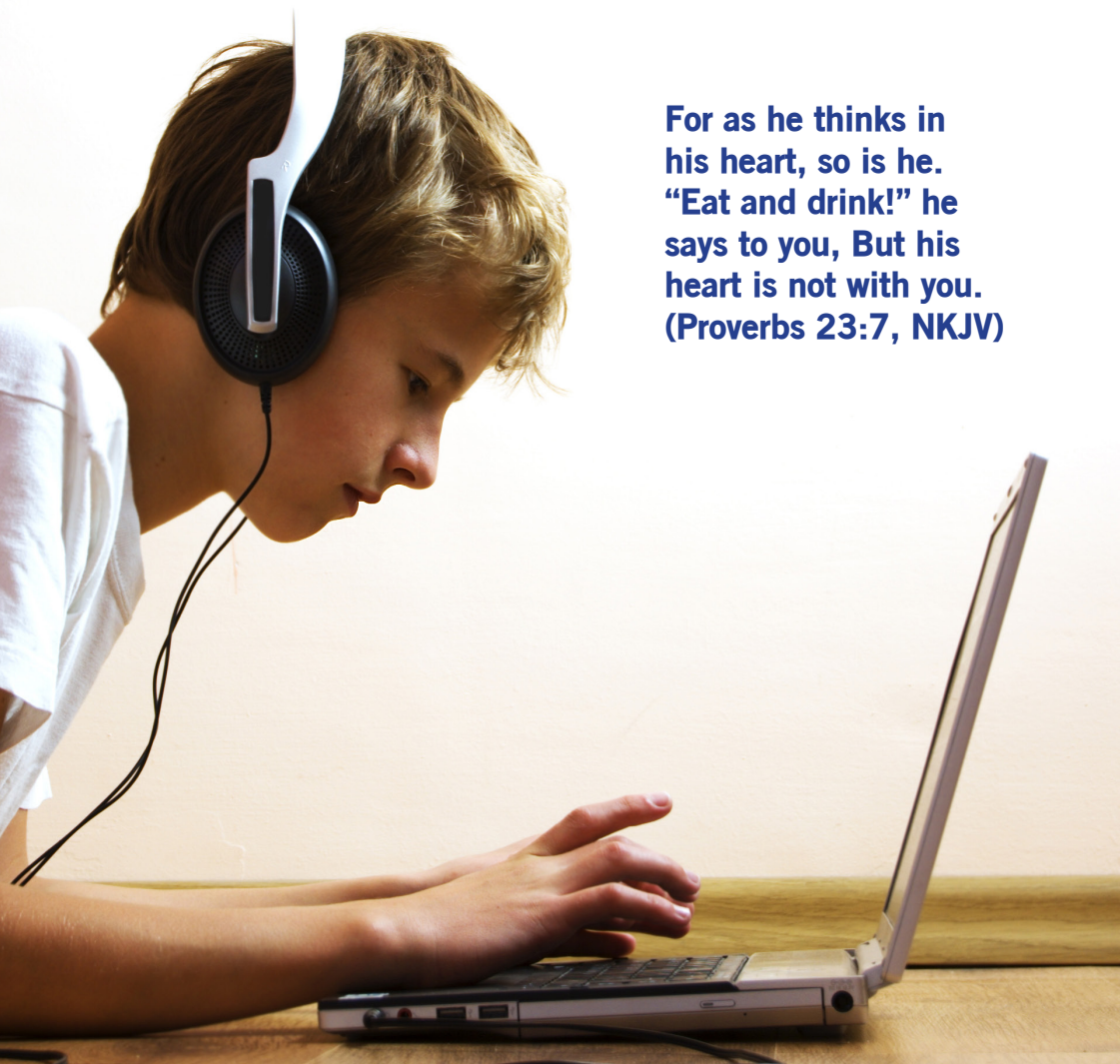
# PORN AND THE ADOLESCENT BRAIN

Pornographers know that if they can hook young people to become regular users of pornography, the stronger their consumer base will be and the greater their profits. The problem is that repeated consumption of porn causes the brain to literally rewire itself. It triggers the brain to pump out chemicals and form new nerve pathways,

leading to profound and lasting changes in the brain.

There is overwhelming evidence to support framing pornography as an addiction “the new drug” numerous brain studies support the premise that internet porn use causes addiction related brain changes.

**For as he thinks in  
his heart, so is he.  
“Eat and drink!” he  
says to you, But his  
heart is not with you.  
(Proverbs 23:7, NKJV)**



# WHAT PORN DOES TO THE CHILD/ ADOLESCENT BRAIN

- Stronger desire for pleasure — during adolescence the reward seeking limbic region of the brain tends to be more emotionally reactive and develop at a faster rate than the area responsible for decision-making.
- Young people are drawn to activities that have high rewards of fun, novelty and pleasure.
- Research suggests that even when a substance, behaviour or situation produces a negative effect, if there are other positive facets in play such as peer approval or the pleasure reaction to pornography the negative aspects will be ignored in favour of the positive aspects.
- Weaker brakes — The prefrontal cortex that influences decision making, risk assessment, good judgement and organisation develops later. During adolescence, the prefrontal cortex takes a back seat to emotional and reward seeking motivators. Young people are less equipped to apply the brakes.
- Natural growth and pruning — During adolescence neural pathways are pruned. Those regularly used are strengthened, those not used are pruned. Synapses and pathways that are not being stimulated get pruned. As the brain prunes away rarely used synaptic connections it loses the potential to realise that particular cognitive ability later in life. Another growth spurt and corresponding pruning occurs again during the teenage years. This late stage pruning is vital to the brain's higher-level cognitive skills. Neuroscientist Dr Jay Giedd says, "If the teenager is doing music, sports or academics, those are the cells and connections that will be hardwired. If they are lying on the couch or playing video games or watching porn etc. those are the cells and connections that are going to survive."
- With brains that are malleable, teens are less likely to be able to foresee outcomes beyond the immediate reward of arousal, desire and orgasm to pornography.
- Author of *The Brain that Changes Itself*, Norman Doidge writes that internet pornography, 'satisfies everyone of the prerequisites for neuroplastic change.' He says that the porn epidemic demonstrates that sexual tastes can be acquired and that while pornographers may say that they are 'pushing the envelope' with new, more hard-core themes, this is because their viewers have built up a tolerance to the existing content — so new material is necessary. Porn happens to be fantastic at forming new, long-lasting pathways in the brain. In fact, porn is such a ferocious competitor that hardly any other activity can compete with it, including actual sex with a real partner.

- Porn can actually overpower the brain's natural ability to have real sex. Why? As Dr. Norman Doidge explains, porn creates the perfect conditions and triggers the release of the right chemicals to make lasting changes in the brain. (Doige, N, *The Brain that Changes Itself*, New York 2007.
- Porn is the new drug. "Dopamine cells stop firing after repeated consumption of a 'natural reward' (e.g. food or sex)," explains Nora Volkow, Director of The National Institute of Drug Abuse, but addictive drugs go right on increasing dopamine levels without giving the brain a break. The more hits drug users take, the more dopamine floods their brain and the stronger their

urges are to keep using. This is why drug addicts find it so hard to stop once they take the first hit. One hit may turn into many hits, or even a lost weekend.

- What else has the power to keep pumping dopamine endlessly into the brain? You guessed it; porn.

Sources: <https://fightthenewdrug.org/how-porn-affects-the-brain-like-a-drug/>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/alicegwalton/2012/01/17/internet-addiction-shows-up-in-the-brain/#69ee3b5610b7>

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/teenbrain/interviews/giedd.html>







# WHAT TO DO

## POINTERS FOR WORKING WITH YOUR TEEN

- It is important to ensure that boundaries and guidelines are clear, concise and unambiguous.
- Keep communication open (regular ongoing conversations). Mentoring and positive relationships with adults are important in working with and raising teenagers.
- Recognise that the teenage brain is primed for sensation-seeking and risk-taking activities.
- Teens may not always understand the implications and consequences of their choices and so talking to and supporting teens is very important
- Adults need to listen, listen and listen some more. Remember that you were once a teen and that a little bit of empathy goes a long way with teens.
- Creating opportunities for teens to take risks in a positive pro social way is important.
- Create “rites of passage” events that allow for pre-arranged elements of risk but also offers opportunities for individuals to recognise a teen’s transition towards adulthood.
- Model the type of behaviours you expect from your teen. Whilst peer-to-peer relationships are important, the most significant person in a teenager’s life is an adult role model.
- Teenagers respond well to adults who value them, love them and listen to them. They trust those adults who care about them so avoid judging them and invest time in and with them.

(Dr Michael Nagel, *Nurturing Young Minds* 2017)

# DARON HAS A SOAPBOX MOMENT...

One harrowing problem that is coming across my desk more and more in my safe places work is incidents of children accessing porn online at young ages. Children aged 7, 8 and 9 are now accessing porn on a regular basis and it is not just soft porn but hard core and grotesque. Children are also perpetrating sexual assault on other children at an increasingly younger age. Perpetrators and victims should be playing with Barbie dolls and action figures. Innocent risqué games of years gone by like doctors and nurses have now been replaced in our school yards by "secret parties" where children are sitting together and sharing and discussing hard core porn on their devices.

Whilst children always have had a natural curiosity about things of a sexual nature and where they come from, they have had a harder time accessing pornography in the past. Now it is available 24/7 and is not just the type of porn you would find in a magazine (bad enough as it is). The problem is that young children and teenagers are now taking their sexual norms/script from what they are seeing online and this is hard-core, shocking and often-violent pornography. Children are often left traumatised by what is forced upon them by their partners trying to act out what they see.

Porn is also highly addictive and damaging, affecting the brain by creating a one-way neurological super highway. Once hooked

it is very hard to recover from it! It also makes sex and intimacy, the way it was created, harder to enjoy later in life.

Some kids access sites through what their parents are watching/reading, others come across it accidentally, most see it on their friend's devices. I receive phone calls from parents in shock, wondering how it has happened and not knowing what to do. Many of these young perpetrators and victims already know how to hide and delete histories so parents can't see what they are viewing. I mean, why do children of 7, 8 and 9 need their own mobile device in the first place?

Parents please assume that if your child has a device, they will have access to porn and they will share it and attempt to emulate it. We can no longer bury our heads in the sand and think we can stop children accessing porn at some point. The question is how are we going to manage, train and equip our children and provide them with strategies and tools to deal with this when it happens?

Parents often tell me that they are powerless to stop it and allow devices and computers into bedrooms, not realising the harm that it is doing. The use of live video and snap chat takes the game of secrets to a whole new level. The need to actively parent in the 2000's takes on a whole new meaning. The enemy has plans for our kids.... The question is do we?

# PR DARON'S TOP TEN TIPS FOR PARENTS

**1**

Always remember that you are the parent and can set boundaries and protocols around childrens' online access.

**2**

Teach children about appropriate online usage.

**3**

Never allow devices into the children's bedrooms.

**4**

Talk to your children about these things and prepare them for what to do when they see it. It is going to happen whether we like it or not. Be careful to not project shame, instead we need to show empathy about the hook that the porn industry has used to target users.

**5**

Talk to your children about the wonder of sex at various times, in an age appropriate way. It is much better coming from you first than from pornography. Teach them critical porn analysis, what is going on with porn and its effects on the brain. Critical porn analysis is an ongoing deep conversation.

**6**

Allow children access to the Internet on the home's mainframe computer in a public space in the house. Research has found that when children access porn accidentally, then a parent talking about it with the child ameliorates the effects of that bad experience.

**7**

Spend time with your children. A parent earns the right to speak to their children at an older age if they have spent significant time with their children while they are young. Relationships are the key protective factor for both mental and physical health.

**8**

Let the children know that there is nothing so hard or embarrassing that they can't talk to you about.

**9**

Talk to your children about appropriate online protocols, criminality of accessing and possessing porn and personal boundaries and other issues with social media as they reach the ages where they are allowed online.

**10**

Does your child really need a mobile phone? Hold off on allowing them access to these for as long as possible. Remember that a mobile phone does not have to be a smart phone.

## HOW TO TALK TO CHILDREN

- Early and often – start talking to children about their bodies as soon as language develops.
- Don't bury your head in the sand. Your child will most likely be exposed to porn at an early age so keep the conversation open and realise that some images will be frightening to your children.
- Ask questions and do lots of listening.
- Keep the conversation going, don't shy away from questions but be frank and honest.
- Be age appropriate but be aware of what your children are being exposed to and address it.

It is imperative that we reassure young people that many people the world over are now working together to fight pornography. Look for the good news stories, activist groups (e.g. Collective Shout) and real life mentors for them to focus on. This will help children get on-board and realise that the fight against pornography is not over yet.

## **DARON GETS OFF HIS SOAPBOX AND CONTINUES TO NEGOTIATE THE DIGITAL JUNGLE.**



Seventh-day  
Adventist Church

*About the author: Pastor Daron Pratt is the Children, Family and Junior Youth Ministries Director for the North New South Wales Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia. He is married to Lisa and has two children; Andrew and Maddison. Daron is passionate about the importance of bringing churches and homes together with a strategic focus and with intentionality to raise our children to know and love the Lord.*

*Views expressed in this booklet are the authors alone and do not necessarily represent those of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.*