

"Let Virtue Garnish thy thoughts unceasingly"

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Pornography

- Not excited to talk about this subject
- However feel I must
- Terrible evil
- Nearly 4 years as bishop, 3 years on the High Council
 - Not all my experiences in this ward – shouldn't assume
 - Seen it nearly destroy marriages
 - Seen it destroy marriages
 - Seen it as the root cause for losing church membership
 - Seen it lead to other moral sins
 - Seen it harm our children
 - Seen the anguish of wives, husbands, mothers and fathers
- Yet what scares me is I'm convinced
 - Tip of the Iceberg
 - President Dalton "Testify it is worse than you think"

True doctrine, understood, changes attitudes and behavior

- Boyd K Packer
"The study of the doctrines of the gospel will improve behavior quicker than a study of behavior will improve behavior. Preoccupation with unworthy behavior can lead to unworthy behavior. That is why we stress so forcefully the study of the doctrines of the gospel." ("Little Children," Ensign, Nov. 1986, 16)
- Struggled to reconcile teaching principles and how to teach this without focusing on behaviors
- I do not wish to sound harsh
- I wish to express my love

Doctrines & Principles

Physical intimacy and marriage

- Marriage and Physical intimacy
"Marriage between husband and wife is central to our Heavenly Father's plan of happiness. Physical intimacy is a sacred part of marriage relationship. It allows children to be born into families, and it brings couples closer together and throughout their lives.
The adversary tries to thwart the Lord's plan of happiness by suggesting that physical intimacy is only for personal gratification. Pornography encourages this destructive and selfish preoccupation." ("Let Virtue Garnish Thy Thoughts", Pg 1)

Definition of Pornography

- Definition of Pornography
"Pornography depicts or describes the human body or sexual conduct in a way that arouses sexual feelings. It may be found in written material (including romance novels), photography, movies, electronic images, video games, internet chat rooms, erotic telephone conversations, music or any other medium. It is a tool of the Adversary" ("Let Virtue Garnish Thy Thoughts", Pg 1)

Doctrines on Pornography

- Matt 5:23
But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.
 - Spencer W Kimball
"The commands of the Lord apply to women with equal force, for he has but a single standard of morality" (Faith Precedes the Miracle, pg143)
- D&C 42:23
And he that *looketh upon a woman to lust after her* shall deny the faith, and shall not have the Spirit; and if he repents not he shall be cast out.
- D&C 42:23
And verily I say unto you, as I have said before, he that *looketh on a woman to lust after her*, or if any shall commit adultery in their hearts, they shall not have the Spirit, but shall deny the faith and shall fear.
- Dallin H Oaks
"One of the Savior's most memorable teachings applies to men [those] who are secretly viewing pornography" ("Pornography," Ensign, May 2005, 87)
 - Matt 23:25-28
25) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.
26) Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.
27) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.
- D&C 121:37
but when we undertake to cover our sins, ... behold, the heavens withdraw themselves; the Spirit of the Lord is grieved; and when it is withdrawn, Amen to the priesthood or the authority of that man.

Filling your life with Light

- D&C 88:67
And if your eye be single to my glory, your whole bodies shall be filled

with light, and there shall be no darkness in you; and that body which is filled with light comprehendeth all things

- Robert D Hales
"light and darkness cannot occupy the same space at the same time. Light dispels darkness. When light is present, darkness is vanquished and must depart. More importantly, darkness cannot conquer light unless the light is diminished or departs." ("Out of Darkness into His Marvelous Light," Ensign, May 2002, 69)
- **QUESTION: What can we do to be filled with light?**
 - Study, pray, temple, church
 - Alma 31:5
...it had had more powerful effect upon the minds of the people than the sword, or anything else
 - President Hinckley
"There is no better way to ensure proper living than temple attendance. It will crowd out the evils of pornography, substance abuse, and spiritual atrophy." ("Let Virtue Garnish Thy Thoughts", Pg 3) ("Closing Remarks," Ensign, May 2005, 102)

Avoiding and Resisting Darkness

- Darkness most often comes gradually, almost imperceptibly if we are not vigilant
- I feel we are too casual in what we let into our lives
 - **READ: Pg 4 #1**
- Guidelines
 - **READ: Pg 4 #2**

Finding Strength to Abandon Sin

- Hit highlights as you feel directed

Helping Others

- Read bullits

Suggestions for in our homes

Principles

- Think of your home as a fortress

- A Mother keeping filth out of her house
Our son said that the Sunday paper with all the ads for Victoria Secrets or, Macy's etc, was the first place he had a problem. I actually have started putting the ads in the recycle bin outside, rather than bringing them in the house. It is impossible to filter everything, but if the advertisement is blatant- get it out.
- Do not feel it is an invasion of privacy to
 - Know what your spouse/children are
 - reading
 - watching
 - writing
 - my space
 - A Mother who has seen first hand what it can do to a child
"I feel very strong that we as parent need to monitor our children in all aspects of there lives. Some might say it invades there space, so what. Do we let them fall astray because we want to respect their privacy? We can still respect there privacy but they also need to know the limits we have; they need to know up front you will be checking up on them. They should know at any time you can pick up their cell phone, or computer and see what they have been up to. Educate yourself to know how to get around the web to see their sites. Just because they have deleted it doesn't mean it is totally gone out of the computer. Educate yourself, it isn't hard to learn how to find these things. Just think if your kids are getting there we should be able to do it."
 - A Mother
"Keep your kids busy doing productive activities. When kids are bored they start "surfing". Even with filters, inappropriate pictures pop up. This is what happened to our child the first time. Once they hit the link, it was hard to not go back."

- We need to focus on the right things – what is most important
 - As Bishop – I can't do it all
 - "I have to rely on the spirit to know what is the most important things for me to do"
 - A Mother who realized she needed to change her priorities
 "Don't get caught up in the fast pace life that we are thrust into, make time for our children. A dirty house, or stack of laundry can wait. We need to be available to our children, talk with them, know what they are doing and where they are visiting on the computer, who they are talking with, and what they are putting out there in "MY SPACE" for the world to know about them. It is OK to not let them have all the freedoms that friends might have. It is ok to not have a MYSPACE account."
 - From a mother
 "Talk, talk, talk. Reinforce your love, but show absolutely no tolerance for the behavior."
- Teach our children to be like Joseph and "run away"
 - They will be exposed
 - You cannot afford to assume they haven't or won't be exposed

Let Virtue Garnish thy thoughts

- D&C 121:45
 and *let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly*; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God; and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distil upon thy soul as the dews from heaven