



Sermon Discussion Questions

Sermon Series: SEXNLOVE (SNL)

Sunday, February 20, 2011: Lust and Pornography

Matthew 5:28

Mike Moses, Lead Pastor

Leader: if you want, feel free to divide the group into men and women for this discussion. Make the decision based on your knowledge of what is going on in relationships within the group. But consider as well keeping the group together in order to keep talking honestly.

There are topics that seem to be very taboo in the church yet they are the issues that run deepest in the lives of people. No matter how much time you've spent in the "church", how was the topic of "sex" treated from what you can remember?

How was the topic of "pornography or lust" treated in church?

How would you define pornography? Here is the definition Mike used this morning: "material intended to cause sexual excitement".

Read Ephesians 4:17-19

Because of the amount of pornography in our culture, how have you noticed our image of "sex" has been shaped? What pressures do you feel in your own relationships due to the pornography in our culture? How do you see people wanting a little bit more?

Mike gave these statistics this morning:

Percent of websites that are pornographic: 60%

Percent of Christian men who admitted to a pornographic problem: 65%

Percent of porn downloaded during business hours: 70%

Average age a boy's first exposure to pornography: 5

Do these statistics surprise you? If so, how and why?

Do these statistics bother you? Why or why not?

Read Job 31:1

How did Job make a deal with his eyes?

How would you define lust? What are definitions you have heard?

Read Matthew 5:28

What is Jesus' main point in making this statement? How does he say we need to address lust?

Read 2 Corinthians 10:5

Talk as a group about ways you can take lust and any other impure sexual thoughts captive. Practically talk about ways that you have found to take them captive and dream together about ways to do this.

Read Philippians 4:8

Last month we talked about the importance of knowing the Scriptures. What verses in Scripture help you to replace impure thoughts? Spend time in Scripture finding verses to use as a group.

One way to take these thoughts captive is to keep your mind from places that feed these thoughts. What are places you can name that you know you need to stay away from?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:18

Many times we deal with the area of lust and pornography simply by "stopping" certain actions and "starting" other actions. If the only way to deal with this is change your behavior, then you will fail in this area. **Read Romans 12:1-2**

What does Paul say happens before "transformation"?

Most of the time we try to change our thinking by simply changing our behavior. But we can change our behavior and our thinking never changes. Behavioral changes are very important. They assist in keeping the mind pure. But what are ways your thinking needs to change?

Consider these areas:

What is your image of the opposite sex? How are these images dishonorable to the way that God created them?

What is the image you have of your spouse? How would you want your image of your spouse to become healthier?

What do you believe pornography gives you that God can't give you?

What am I trusting that lust and pornography satisfies in me that my spouse and/or my God can't satisfy?

What is going on in our marriage that we have not talked about that leads me to escape to pornography? Why can't I talk to my spouse about these things?

What have I given up on in my relationship with my spouse that I need to offer to the Lord and sacrifice myself to pour into?