

Message Notes

Deceptive Imitators

Introduction - This is not your typical Thanksgiving weekend message!

Current Sermon Series: Holy Sex

Today's message:
Deceptive Imitators -
Pornography and Masturbation

This is a male and female issue

DEFEATER BELIEFS

- "It's not a sin."
- "Orgasm is a healthy, physiological need."
- "I'll just get it over with so I can go on with the rest of my day."
- "If I had a marital outlet, then I wouldn't struggle with this."
- "If I deeply struggle with this, I must not be a Christian."
- "If I experience a season of victory, then fall, it's proof I'll never be free."
- "There's no hope."

THE BIG IDEA

1. God creates people, in his image, in a way which mirrors his triune nature (Genesis 1:27)
2. Sin wars against this resulting in de-humanization (Romans 1:22-25)
3. God (re)creates wholeness through the cross and resurrection of Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18)
4. One day we all will experience complete wholeness (1 John 3:2)

How do we move forward from these deceptive imitators?

- Battle lies with truth
- Stay with the Spirit
- Distinguish deliverance from freedom
- Distinguish freedom from temptation
- Choose to be vulnerable with your community

Gospel Application

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Genesis 1:27

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Romans 1:22-25

22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. 24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator — who is forever praised. Amen.

2 Corinthians 3:18

18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

RESOURCES:

- <http://www.hopecc.com/sermons/false-intimacy-the-counterfeit-of-pornography/>
- <http://www.hopecc.com/sermons/lust-dealing-with-the-dragon-within/-fightthenewdrug.org>
- Wired for Intimacy, How Pornography Hijacks the Male Brain by William Struthers
- Search: "New York Times Alexander Rhodes" for the article "Internet Porn Nearly Ruined His Life. Now He Wants to Help."

On sexual addiction:

- False Intimacy by Schaumburg
- Bold Love by Allender and Longman
- Don't Call It Love by Carnes



THANKSGIVING

HOLY SEX



DEFEATER BELIEFS



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Matthew 5:27-28

27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

As I examine Scripture I would have to contend that it cannot be found anywhere that masturbation is a sin. Sexual immorality is a sin. (Ephesians 5:3, Colossians. 3:5, 1 Thessalonians 4:3) Lust is a sin. (Proverbs 6:25, Matthew 5:28, 1 Peter 4:3), but masturbation, in and of itself, is not a sin. There are righteous, healthy ways in which it can take place and there are sinful, unhealthy ways in which it can take place. I believe that most often people directly couple masturbation with lust and sexual immorality, but I do not believe they go together necessarily.

~from an article at relevantmagazine.com

So my question is this: If, somehow, a single person could masturbate completely and totally *separate* from fantasy, meaning without the use of anything such as: pornography; imagining specific women from real life; or even imagining what one's future spouse might ideally look like; i.e. using physical stimulation alone and nothing more, do you still think it's a sin?

~from an article at relevantmagazine.com

DEFEATER BELIEFS

1. It's not a sin.
2. It's a healthy, physiological need.

I knew it was bad for me. But I also realized it was bad for women I was involved with, and that was the moment that I said: 'I need to leave this thing behind. It is completely distorting my sexuality to the point where it could actually be harmful or at least not enjoyable for other people who I am involved with.'

~Alexander Rhodes, Internet Porn Nearly Ruined His Life

Something must be done immediately. A healthy, loving sexual experience demands both intimacy and respect, both of which pornography addiction destroys, and I am committed to raising this fundamental awareness and protecting the vulnerable enslaved in the sex industry and abusive relationships.

~Former Adult Film Star

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7. There's no hope.





CREATION



FALL



REDEMPTION



RESTORATION

CREATION

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Doctrine of the Trinity

God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and each person is fully God, and there is one God.

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“Tri-unity”

Point
No Dimensions



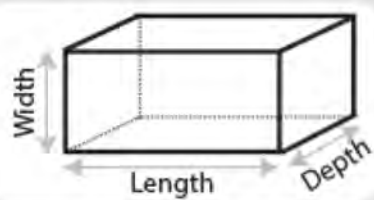
Line
One Dimension



Plane
Two Dimensions



Solid Shape
Three Dimensions



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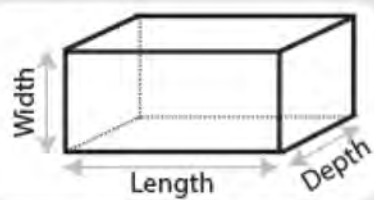
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Objectification more broadly means treating a person as a commodity or an object, without regard to their personality or dignity.

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Sexual objectification is the act of treating a person as an instrument of sexual pleasure.

REDEMPTION



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Matthew 22:37

Jesus: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

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2 Corinthians 3:18

18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

RESTORATION

1 John 3:2

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

HOLY SEX

Moving forward

Battle lies with the truth

Titus 2:11-14

11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. 12 It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Moving forward

Stay with the Spirit

Galatians 5:16-17

16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

Moving forward

Distinguish deliverance from freedom

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Distinguish freedom from temptation

Moving forward

Choose to be vulnerable with your community

Hebrews 3:12-13

12 See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.

A photograph showing the lower legs and feet of several people standing on a polished wooden floor. The people are wearing various styles of shoes, including sneakers and loafers. The text "JOIN A SMALL GROUP" is overlaid in a large, white, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

JOIN A
SMALL GROUP

ACCOUNTABILITY + IDENTITY IN CHRIST + FREEDOM IN THE GOSPEL

HOLY SEX

FIGHTING SIN TOGETHER

JANUARY 30 - MARCH 6
MONDAY NIGHTS 7PM

Gospel Application

Will we allow the truth of the gospel to free us today
from deceptive imitators of God's good design?