

Sermon Discussion Guide




“Pornography”

1 Peter 2:9-11; Romans 13:13,14

Rev. Ray Cortese, May 24 & 25, 2014

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read 1 Peter 2:9-11; Romans 13:13,14. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 How have things regarding pornography changed over the years? How have they stayed the same?
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in *one phrase or sentence* (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, “What was the sermon about on Sunday?” what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

THE DESTRUCTIVENESS OF PORNOGRAPHY

- 3 Pornography enslaves. Why is pornography called a “gateway” drug? How is pornography like McDonald’s french-fries?

- 4 Pornography distorts. What is the difference between pornography and real intimacy? How is pornography fundamentally self-centered?

THE ROOT OF PORNOGRAPHY

- 5 Why does it not work to tell a pornography addict, “just stop it”?
- 6 In your own words, why is idolatry at the root of our problems?
- 7 Ray said, “What you want is a hug, and what you get is a cold computer screen.” G.K. Chesterton said, “When a man knocks on the door of a brothel, he is looking for God.” Explain.

THE LIBERATION FROM PORNOGRAPHY

- 8 *Reveal the truth.* Do you have someone you trust who can hold you accountable for whatever sin you struggle with? Ray asked, “Has God given you the grace to see yourself as the biggest sinner in your marriage?” How would you answer?
- 9 *Run.* Ray gave several examples of things wise Christians should not do. What were they? What might you add?
- 10 *Ravished by Jesus.* What does “the expulsive power of a greater affection” mean? How does it change you when you realize that Jesus loves the real you?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?