

Counselor's Corner

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We Are A Disconnected Society With Superficial Relationships

By: Rev. Dr. BJ Phillip

We have many technological advances that should help us stay connected better than ever, cell phones, computers, text messaging, Face Book, My Space, etc.



So What's The Problem?

With meaningless, superficial relationship come increased loneliness, hurt, hopelessness and tears. This generation is crying out for meaningful relationships with the significant people in their lives. We have become a nation of hurting and emotionally wounded people.

We humans do not like pain and we will do just about anything to avoid having to deal with the emotional, physical, and spiritual pain in our lives. We seek out

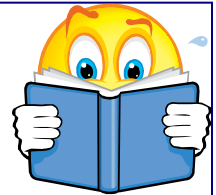
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Pornography: A Public or Private Problem?

By: Rev. Chuck Phillips



What would you consider the number one issue facing adults today in our society? I think if we review some of the statistics regarding pornography we will find it is one of the number one addictions in society today. It is especially alarming because the statistics show Christians are just as involved in pornography as the secular world.

Could any of us foresee the day that 50% of Christian men and 20% of Christian women would be addicted to pornography? Also in the past two decades at least a dozen nationally known ministers have been caught in illicit sexual activities. In March of 2002 Rick Warren (author of the Purpose Driven life) Pastors.com website conducted a survey on porn use of 1351 pastors: 54% of the pastors had viewed Internet pornography within the last year, and 30% of these had visited within the last 30 days.

I believe one of the primary factors in the dramatic increase in pornography in the last few years is technology. The internet and our ability to access pornography in the privacy of our homes allow pornography to flood the market place and our homes beyond a controllable level.

Today the average teenager spends three to four hours per day watching television and 83% of the programming they most frequently watch contains some sexual content. Since 2002 Hollywood releases an average of 11,000 adult movies per year more than 20 times the number of PG rated movies.

Last year, Comcast, the nation's largest cable company,

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ways of eliminating it from our daily lives. We want to be blissfully happy like all the beautiful people in the commercials, TV sitcoms and movies that offer us instant gratification and happiness.

The enemy, our old nemesis Satan, is right there with an instant cure for what ails us; usually in the form of alcohol, drugs, sex, pornography, cutting, and other risky behaviors. It has become common place in our world today to express any emotion we feel by any means necessary, including violence.

We have become desensitized to violent behavior perpetrated by our spouses (pornography, drugs, domestic violence), our children (sending nude pictures on cell phones & the computer, risky sexual behavior and cyber bullying), and strangers (sexual predators) that may want to steal our children's and our soul, all from the comfort of our own homes. We have become so isolated from other people that no one can see the reality of the pain that we are subjected to each day. Video Games, Television, Cell Phones, and Computers allow us to live in the world without being in the physical presence of other people. We can do, say, and be anything we want without any physical contact with another person. The Devil wants us to believe that this is communicating and relationship building, and that it is okay; because when we are isolated from others, we have no support in the Spiritual Battles that we fight each day. **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10** says, *“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor; for if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!”*

No one wants to take personal responsibility anymore. We whine and cry about the consequences that we must suffer, when we are found out. We have become a very self-centered nation, we want what we want, and we want it right now, no matter who it hurts. Because of our self-centeredness we have become desensitized to the pain that we cause others. We are so focused on our desires that we, most of the time, are unaware of other people that get hurt. We have lost touch with the fact that we are dealing with real people instead of characters in a TV show, video game or movie.

When we only interact with people electronically we can lose perspective about the other person's feelings and emotions. It becomes a funny movie, not reality, when our children post nude or seductive pictures of

themselves on the internet. We can't believe that our child would do such a thing. When our children put video clips of themselves on YOU TUBE beating each other up, they become movie stars instead of criminals. **Make no mistake, this is a Spiritual Battle!**

As Parents We Should Be Asking Ourselves:

What am I teaching my children when I act like this, and when I allow them to get away with acting like they do? We should be holding ourselves and our children responsible for the decisions we make and the things that we do. Our children are watching us. By our actions and interactions with others, we are teaching our children what it means to be a Man and a Woman, a Mother and a Father, and a Friend with our neighbors. So, next time your child gets into trouble, ask yourself, “What am I teaching my child by the way I'm handling this situation?”

Proverbs 23:7 says, *“As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.”* We have to stop thinking that we are the center of the universe and the rest of the world revolves around us. When we think like this, we take God off His throne and try to become like Him. This is the very mistake that Adam and Eve made in the beginning.

Genesis 3: 2-5 says, *“And the woman said to the serpent (Satan). We may eat the fruit from the trees of the garden, except the fruit from the tree which is in the middle of the garden. God has said, ‘you shall not eat of it neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’ But the serpent said to the woman you shall not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing the difference between good and evil and blessing and calamity.”* Satan is still deceiving us today with the same reasoning, we should have what we want, when we want it, no matter what anyone else thinks or wants.

We have lost our Moral Compass in America. We are still committing the same sin, “Disobedience to God.” We have the guide book that will lead us into right standing before God “The Bible,” many times we just refuse to apply the standards.

The hole in the hearts of people today penetrates deep. Contrary to what we believe people are not bad, we just sometimes make bad decisions. We are searching for something real, something authentic, something divine. All we need is someone to lead the way, someone to set the captives free from spiritual bondage and to help us see through the cultural lies to the Truth.

I call him Jesus!

CLASSES, SEMINARS & SERVICES

SPIRITUAL WARFARE *Tuition is \$30 | Participant Includes Curriculum*

GRACE CHAPEL

6:00—7:30 PM Each Sunday Evening
Beginning May 3, 2009 July 12, 2009

Total of
Nine Meetings

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HEALING SERVICES

GRACE CHAPEL

6:30-8:30 PM—FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

Teaching about healing, Music, Communion, Prayer, Anointing, Time of Testimony, & Fellowship with others

SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER SERVICE

GRACE CHAPEL

6:00-7:30 PM—EACH SUNDAY EVENING

Receive a message or teaching about Prayer and join in a time of prayer for each other, our community, and our country.

RECOVERY MEETINGS

CHAPIN CHRISTIAN COUNSELING & GRACE CHAPEL

6:30-8:30—EACH THURSDAY EVENING

In May 2009, we will begin a study called “The Battlefield of the Mind.” We will discover how wrong thinking patterns produce problems in our lives. We will learn how to change your life from difficult to victorious. You will need to purchase the curriculum, approximate cost for the book and the workbook is \$20.00

COUNSELING SERVICES

CALL TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT FOR COUNSELING SERVICES AND TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES AND SEMINARS

- ➔ Throughout the year we have seminars & classes
 - Parenting Difficult Children
 - Communication Skills
 - Conflict Resolution
 - Anger Management
 - Marriage in Retrospect
- ➔ We provide Christian Counseling for Individuals, Married Couples and Families
- ➔ We provide pre-marital counseling & small intimate wedding services for those without a church home

pulled in over \$50 million from adult programming. All the nation's top cable operators, from Time Warner to Cablevision, distribute sexually explicit material to their subscribers. Most of the Satellite companies will not even reveal the amount of revenue they receive from adult programming but the estimates are about \$200 million dollars per year.

A survey by Reuters, of Ontario Canada in Feb 2006 identified that 87% of university students are having sex over webcams, and using instant messenger like phone sex.

So is it any wonder that in our society today pornography is one of the greatest challenges we as Christians face in our daily lives. Probably some of the most disturbing facts are that, 38 percent of adults believe it is ‘morally acceptable’ to look at pictures of nudity or explicit sexual behavior, 59 percent of adults believe it is ‘morally acceptable’ to have sexual fantasies and 38 percent of adults believe there is nothing wrong with the use of pornography.

I believe that because today’s adults view porn as private, they think, “what I do in the privacy of my home is my business.” These same people view pornography as a victimless crime. Their attitude is, “it does not hurt anyone so what is the big deal.” It is a big deal for Christians because in Matthew 5:28 Jesus tells us, “But I say to you that whoever looks on a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” It is our minds that Satan attacks and, where our minds go, so goes our heart. Those men who say they would never have an affair or cheat on their wives, might need to ask themselves, what they are doing when they visit those porn sites, or watch those R-rated and X-rated movies that Hollywood is bombarding us with today?

We can win the battle if we will only stay focused on using Jesus Christ as our role model and using the scriptures to put on the full armor of God each day before we venture out into the world.

The best way to keep our mind and body pure is to stay focused on doing only those things that will bring honor and glory to God and our Savior Jesus Christ.



Contents of the Spiritual Warfare Class:

What is spiritual warfare? What does it look like? How does it affect us? The Bible has much to say about the battles we face each day. This study will deepen your understanding of our supernatural struggle and direct you to sources of power and hope.

1. Detecting the Deceiver
2. Facing Temptation
3. The Serpent's Strategy
4. The Armor of God
5. The War Within
6. Defeating the Destroyer
7. Overcoming the Accuser
8. Surviving Satan's Attacks
9. Standing Firm

What the Bible says about Spiritual Warfare:

Ephesians 6:1-18

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.”

This study will prepare you to use the Armor of God in a way that will protect you from the temptations and stumbling blocks that Satan puts in our path each day as we interact with others at work, at church, and at home.



This class begins May 3, 2009 and runs for 9 Sunday evenings from 6:00—7:30 PM. We will meet at Chapin Christian Counseling & Grace Chapel. We will serve coffee, soft drinks, and water.

We Do Not Have Childcare!

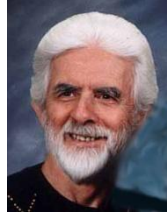
Call to register so that we know how much curriculum to purchase. The tuition for this class is \$30.00 per participant

MEET OUR COUNSELORS



Rev. Dr. BJ Phillips received her Doctorate in Christian Counseling from Andersonville Theological Seminary. She received her Master's from the University of South Carolina. Her undergraduate studies were in Experimental Psychology at the University of South Carolina. She is an Ordained Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and is a Board Certified Professional Christian Counselor. She is member in good standing with the following professional organizations:

- ➔ AACC (American Association of Christian Counselors)
- ➔ IBCCC (International Board of Certified Christian Counselors)
- ➔ NACSW (North American Association of Christians in Social Work)
- ➔ Chapin Ministerial Association



Rev. Chuck Phillips: received his Bachelor Degree in Theology and his Masters Degree in Christian Counseling from Andersonville Theological Seminary. He is currently working on his Doctorate in Christian Counseling, he is an Ordained Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and is a Board Certified Biblical Counselor. He is a member of the following professional organizations:

- ➔ AACC (American Assoc. of Christians Counselors)
- ➔ IBCC C (International Board of Certified Christian Counselors)
- ➔ National Notary Association
- ➔ Chapin Ministerial Association



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