

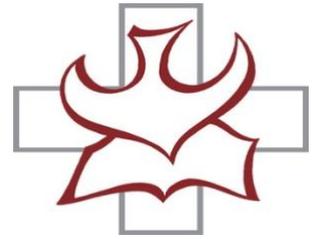
No Hint of *Pornia*!

The Book Of Ephesians

Proverbs 7:1-27 Eph 5:1-10 Matt 5:27-30

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You are God's Elect; God **chose you, by name, by grace, in Christ before** the Creation of the world to be His very own. He brought you to the water of Holy Baptism, where He created faith, forgave your sins, and gave you New Life. You are now a “**New Man**”; **Christ** lives within you; the **Holy Spirit** fills you, and you belong to **God the Father** in Heaven! You are holy and righteous in Christ!

Everything is different about you because you are one of God's Elect and Baptized disciples!

The Book of Ephesians draws a line in the sand and teaches us that we are **never ever** to go back into the old life of sin. One of the most dangerous areas where this might happen is with “**pornia**”. **Pornia** is the Greek word for **sexual immorality**; it is the basis, for instance, of the English word **pornography**. There is a plethora of strong warnings in Holy Scripture about **pornia**; here is the warning from the book of Ephesians:

But among you there must not be even a hint of **sexual immorality**, or any kind of impurity or lust, because these are **improper** for God's holy people. ... For of this you can be sure: no **sexually immoral**, nor impure, nor lustful person – such a person is an idolater – **has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and of God.** Ephesians 5:3,5

Pornia is so evil that there must **not** even be a “**hint of it**” in your life, thoughts, or words; Paul will go on to mention obscene *words*, foolish *talking*, and coarse *joking* as examples of improper things for **God's Elect and Baptized disciples**.

Pornia includes **ALL** forms of sexual sin: **Lust, Adultery, Pornography, Sexual Immorality, Homosexuality, Living Together before your married, Casual Sex, “Friends with Benefits”** --- or whatever it is called now --- not to mention all the **sexual crimes!**

Pornia is powerful, it is addictive, it destroys; and it corrupts God's good gift of marriage and sexuality. ... **DON'T BE DECEIVED:** if you are involved in **pornia**, any form of sexual immorality, and remain unrepentant, you will **not** inherit the Kingdom of God.

- ✓ Don't forfeit your eternal salvation for **sexual immorality!**
- ✓ **Pornia** is a faith destroying sin.

- ✓ **Pornia** will tangle you up and turn your life upside down; it **will tarnish your character, break-up your marriage, shatter your family, threaten your career, & separate you from God.**
- ✓ **Pornia** comes from your sinful nature; and it will bring destruction into your life.
- ✓ Don't forfeit your eternal salvation for **pornia!**

Today, if you are tangled up in **pornia; if you are engaged in any form of sexual immorality, then REPENT! Let God untangle you!**

That happens as you **confess** your sins of **pornia** and **trust** in Christ to forgive you. The Lord Jesus came into the world to redeem and restore you. His work of salvation took Him to Jerusalem where He suffered and died on a cross to set you free **from all sin**; even **pornia!** In Christ's resurrection, you are delivered! You are redeemed! You are restored! You have **NEW LIFE!** You are one of **God's Elect and Baptized disciples!** You are now a "**New Man**"; **Christ** lives within you; the **Holy Spirit** fills you, and you belong to **God the Father** in Heaven!

Beware of "Empty" Words
Ephesians 5:6
All kinds of defenses are made for promiscuous sex, for living together outside marriage, and for alternate lifestyles. Paul says, "**Let no one deceive you with empty words.**" Those arguments will not hold up before God's final bar of justice. Rather, for such things "**God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.**" For the Ephesians and for us, Paul's message is clear: "**Do not be partners with them.**" Training, Armin J., Galatians, Ephesians p. 196

Everything is different about you because you are one of God's Elect and Baptized disciples!

Pornia is not your master! You are not a slave to it: you belong to God. All forms of **Pornia** are lies and deceptions from Satan and His demons!

- ✓ Only Christ can set you free from **pornia!**
- ✓ Only the Gospel is the power of God for salvation, wholeness, purity, and healing!
- ✓ Only Holy Scripture can teach you godly morals, values and sexual ethics

In the NT, the Apostle Paul teaches us that as **the Elect and Baptized people of God**, you are to **FLEE **pornia****, you are to **RUN FOR YOUR LIFE** away from it!

FLEE from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 1 Corinthians 6:18

FLEE means **to run for your life!** There is **imminent danger**. You have to treat **pornia** like a poisonous snake --- you physically move away from it --- otherwise it will hurt you. Whatever the cost, whatever the price, **FLEE **pornia!**** That means immoral relationships have to be decisively broken; hearts have to be untangled; people will be upset; there may be consequences. It doesn't matter, you must **FLEE **pornia****. Run

for your life! Break off the relationship! Change your lifestyle! Monitor your habits!
THERE IS GREAT DANGER HERE!

Repent! Confess your sins!
And know that Christ forgives your sins – even *pornia*!

You are one of *God's Elect and Baptized disciples*! You are now a “*New Man*”; **Christ** lives within you; the **Holy Spirit** fills you, and you belong to **God the Father** in Heaven! *Everything is different about you because you are one of God's Elect and Baptized disciples!*

Do whatever it takes; do whatever you have to do:
you must **FLEE** *pornia*.

Youth, if you are in or out of high school, then pay special attention to this! This whole subject of *pornia* has special significance to you. Your whole culture is sexually charged. If you are in high school or college years, sexual immorality and sexual temptations can be very powerful and very easy to find. ***You are in a red hot danger zone!*** Just about everything in your life is sexually orientated: TV, music, movies, video games, clothing styles, novels, friendships, parties, and dancing --- even attitudes and mindsets. **God's will for you is that you avoid lust and flee sexual immorality at all costs. Like all the rest of us, you too must watch your life carefully!** You too are one of *God's Elect and Baptized disciples*! You have a “*New Man*”; **Christ** lives within you; the **Holy Spirit** fills you, and you belong to **God the Father** in Heaven! *Everything is different about you because you are one of God's Elect and Baptized disciples!*

Be very careful how you live your life:
you also must **FLEE** *pornia*.

One significant thing that this includes is **living together** before marriage. If you are single, make up your mind right here and right now that you will not live with someone before you are married. If you make the decision to live together before marriage, then that is nothing other than a public decision to renounce Christ and to publicly live in *pornia*.

The warning is clear: *no sexually immoral, and impure, or lustful person – such a person is an idolater – has no inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and of God.* If you choose an immoral lifestyle, or if you support it or encourage it, then you have chosen **against** Christ

The believer must guard against toughening himself against the sinful world to the point that he loses his sense of shock and grief over sin. For example, even if everyone else in this world should commit or condone fornication, adultery, and homosexuality, the child of God will never take these awful commonplaces in stride; he will still call them what they are: sinful perversions of God's good gift of sexuality. Ecclesiastes, Bollhagen, p.167

and His Word. Make up your mind right here and right now that you will live a holy and godly life – including a life of sexual purity until you are married.

Finally, one other thing. *Sexual immorality* has become the frontline in spiritual warfare in our country today. Homosexuality, LGBTQ rights, Gay Marriage, Gender identity, --- all of this --- is being promoted everywhere and in every way . . . even all the way down to kindergarten students in the schools. *Sexual immorality* has become the frontline in spiritual warfare in our country today.

This where your simple witness to the truth shines the brightest. When you have opportunity, speak the truth in love; confess Christ as you stand for God's Word; be bold as you share the 6th Commandment; bravely profess God's morals and values; fearlessly defend God's good gift of marriage between one biological man and one biological woman; and be strong as you lovingly warn people to **"Flee! *sexual immorality*."** Remember what Martin Luther said:

If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, then I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved. And to be steady on all the battlefield besides is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that one point. Martin Luther

Don't flinch in your faith! Don't falter in your witness!
Be bold and courageous as you speak the truth in love to world trapped and dying in all kinds of *sexual immorality*.

In the Book of Ephesians, St. Paul teaches us that "not even a hint" of sexual immorality is to be found in your life, your thoughts, or your words.

That's because you are one of *God's Elect and Baptized disciples*! You are now a "*New Man*";

- ⇒ **Christ** lives within you;
- ⇒ the **Holy Spirit** fills you,
- ⇒ and you belong to **God the Father** in Heaven!

***Everything is different about you:
Live a sexually pure and decent life!***

AMEN!