

**PURITY AND
SEXUAL
TEMPTATION**

Porn in the Digital Age A Barna Study

1. There is Moral Ambiguity Toward Porn, Particularly Among Younger

"VIEWING PORN IS WRONG"



2. There are Varied Opinions About What Constitutes Porn

5 SIGNS IT'S PORN

The following are the top five indicators for people that some thing has "crossed the line" into porn.



3. 1 in 3 Americans Seek out Porn at Least Once a Month

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4. Age, Gender and Faith Practice are the Three Biggest Factors in Frequent Porn Use

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5. Young Adults Use More Porn—and are Less Likely to Say It's Bad for Society

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6. Teens and Young Adults Rank not Recycling As More Immoral Than Viewing Porn

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7. Most Porn Users Say it Doesn't Bother Them to Use Porn



54% OF PORN USERS SAY IT DOESN'T REALLY BOTHER THEM TO USE PORN

8. Very Few Adults Feel a Sense of Guilt When They Use Porn

1% FEEL A SENSE OF GUILT WHEN I USE PORN*



9. Most Porn Users are ok With how Much Porn They Use—But Practicing Christians are Divided

MOST PORN USERS ARE OK WITH HOW MUCH PORN THEY USE—BUT PRACTISING CHRISTIANS ARE DIVIDED



TRYING TO STOP?

All Practising Christians

You have tried to stop using it, but have been unable to do so at least once



You are currently trying to stop using porn



10. Few Adults are Actively Trying to Stop Using Porn

PORN IN THE DIGITAL AGE

1. There is moral ambiguity toward porn.
2. There are varied opinions about what is porn.
3. 1 in 3 Americans seek out porn at least once a month.
4. Age, gender, and faith are biggest factors in frequent porn use.
5. Young adults use more porn.

PORN IN THE DIGITAL AGE

6. Teens and young adults rank not recycling as more immoral than viewing porn.
7. Most porn users say it doesn't bother them.
8. Few adults feel a sense of guilt using porn.
9. Most porn users are OK with how they use porn.
10. Few adults are trying to stop using porn.

**TEMPTATION COMES
FROM WITHIN**

JAMES 1:13-14

FROM WITHIN

- Believers are not slaves to circumstance. James criticizes people who might claim that their present hardships come from God and give them no other option but to sin.
- God does not tempt anyone to sin; it is not in His nature.
- Rather, temptation to sin comes from within the believer himself.

FROM WITHIN

- James introduces a fishing metaphor.
- A fish notices a worm dangling in the water.
- Motivated by desire for the food, the fish is lured into action and certain calamity.
- Likewise, a Christian is enticed by sin, often underestimating the danger that the temptation invites.

FROM WITHIN

- Notice that the “desire” in verse 14 is unique to each man and woman.
- What might be a strong temptation for one might be less enticing to another.
- This truth demands that a believer truly examine his or her sin tendencies; the more one knows oneself, the stronger one can fight temptation.

FROM WITHIN

- The process of prayer-led self-examination is challenging and often ugly.
- To aid in the process of identifying and dealing with temptation, God's Word instructs believers to develop accountability relationships.
- Below are several elements that should mark these six partnerships:

PARTNERSHIPS

- Confession and Prayer

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.” (James 5:16)

- Engagement

“Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2).

PARTNERSHIPS

- Consistent Contact and Encouragement

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” (Hebrews 3:13)

- Mutual Spiritual Growth

“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.” (Proverbs 27:17)

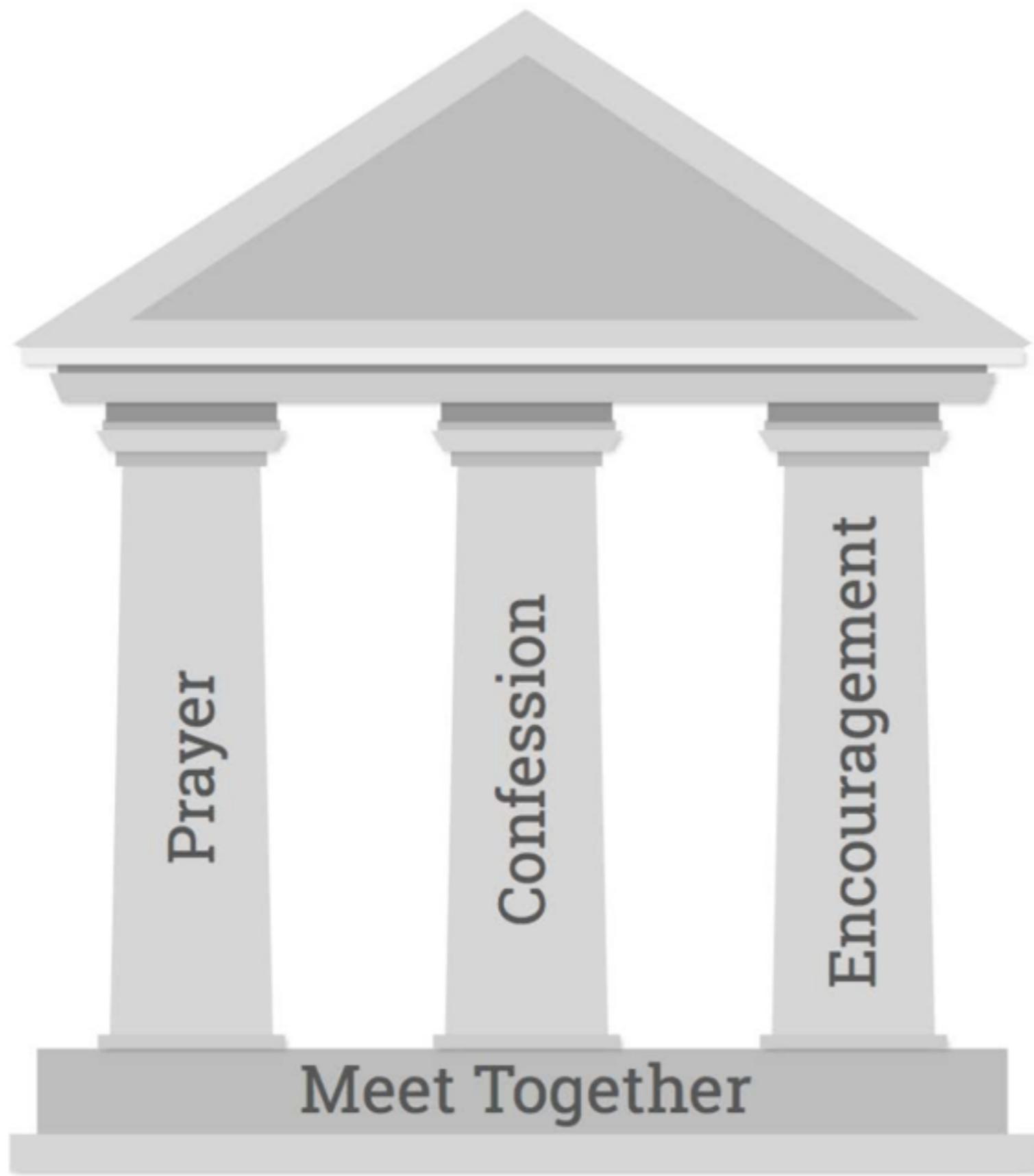
PARTNERSHIPS

- Humility and Honesty

“If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.” (1 John 1:8)

- Focus on the Scriptures

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.” (Colossians 3:16)



Prayer

Confession

Encouragement

Meet Together

ACTION STEPS

- Find an accountability partner. Look for someone of the same gender who is faithful.
- Women's Ministry (cdunham@prestonwood.org) or Men's Ministry (dshivers@prestonwood.org) - contact ministry for a mentor.
- Download Covenant Eyes on all of your devices (www.prestonwood.org/covenanteyes).

**TEMPTATION IS
A PROCESS**

JAMES 1:15

PROCESS

- James presents this illustration:
- The believer who nurtures sinful desire is like a mother conceiving a child. That temptation, incubated and held close, eventually gives birth to a baby (similar to temptation to sin).
- Just as a newborn progresses and grows, that sin becomes stronger and more powerful, eventually causing inevitable destruction and ultimately death.

TEMPTATION CAN BE FOUGHT

- Scriptures promise that there is no temptation too great that cannot be overcome by the power of the Lord in the life of the believer. He will provide a way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13).
- As the battle of desire is fought internally, believers should consider their thought-lives, capture those sinful desires, and fill their minds with reflection on the qualities of Christ (Philippians 4:8).

SIN AND SALVATION

- Sin can be forgiven. Christians will inevitably sin and when that occurs, God is faithful to hear their confessions, forgive their sins, and cleanse them from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:8–9).
- Those headed for death can be given new life. Individuals marching toward full rebellion and death are not without hope. For the non-believer, destined for eternal death, eternal life is waiting through a relationship with Jesus (Romans 6:23).

ACTION STEPS

- Maintain vigilance during vulnerability: HALTS - Hungry, Angry, Lonely, Tired, or Sick. In moments when you are experiencing one of these five physical or emotional states, the risk of falling to temptation seems to increase.
- Recognize your hunger, anger, loneliness, tiredness or sickness and choose healthy and responsible ways to address it immediately instead of turning to sin.

**JESUS IS STRONGER
THAN TEMPTATION**

JAMES 1:16-18

PURSUE JESUS

- James shifts his focus from the death that sin brings to “the Father of lights.”
- Unlike the Enemy who brings about destruction, our Father is responsible for every good and perfect gift.
- He is unchanging, not changing in His character.
- He is constantly good and desires good for His children.

PURSUE JESUS

- The words “brought forth” in verse 18 once again call to mind the imagery of childbirth.
- The Gospel (“the word of truth”), when embraced, fundamentally changes an individual. Believers are reborn.
- No longer slaves to a heritage of failure and lust, Christians are adopted into God’s family and given a new name—children of God.

PURSUE JESUS

- Without Christ, man is slave to sin; passions rule the body without fear of being conquered.
- Upon conversion, the power of sin is brought to nothing and the believer is no longer obligated to obey the call of temptation (Romans 6:6).
- The old man, the one who had no hope of breaking sin's bonds, has been crucified with Christ. The believer has died to sin.

ROMAN 6:12-13

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

PURSUE JESUS

- This requires a daily commitment to:
 - capture every thought that in opposition to His holiness, measure each word before being uttered against His Word, and commit the body completely to His will.
- Believers have a choice: again put on the shackles of sin or submit as a follower of Christ.

ACTION STEPS

- Find a Scripture reading plan

www.biblegateway.com/reading-plans

- Commit Scripture to memory.

Topical memory system - www.navigators.org

