

Think Pornography Isn't a Problem in Your Church? Think Again.  
"Pornography is the greatest cancer in the Church today."

Pastor Chuck Swindoll

## THE STARTING POINT

Let me ask you this: Does *your* church have a porn addiction recovery program? Is porn regularly addressed from the pulpit of *your* church? Does *your* pastor call for accountability of what you watch online? Porn is a difficult subject, but we must fight it directly. Your pastor(s) may, like *The Porn Phenomenon* study showed, simply be unaware of the global severity of the porn epidemic.

I hate to admit this, but surveys show that **at least 50% of pastors are, themselves, porn addicts.** Yet they need the same grace and freedom to bring their addiction to light — without judgment and condemnation — if they are going to become healthy to help lead this movement.

## NEXT STEPS FOR YOUR CHURCH

There is no simple solution for porn addiction. **The Church cannot — MUST NOT — counsel porn like other addictions.** We recommend you safely discuss porn addiction with your pastor or church. The Church must use wisdom in how it counsels porn addicts. Porn addiction goes beyond a moral problem because it's primarily a brain problem. The Church becomes part of the **problem** when it sets addicts up for failure by not helping them to address the underlying reasons for their addiction. This type of counseling takes grace-fueled expertise.

After years of research on this subject, we are making it all available to you, for free, at: [www.Josh.org/epidemic](http://www.Josh.org/epidemic).

- Download the 11-page *Executive Summary*.
- Download *Resources for Overcoming Pornography* (Chapter 16).
- Read Brad Hambrick's article "Why Do I Continue to Struggle?!? 19 Possible Motive-Triggers for Pornography" (*Executive Summary*, p. 52)
- Our team can help your church get started. Contact us at [www.Josh.org/wholelife](http://www.Josh.org/wholelife).

You and I have an awesome responsibility.  
**It's time! Let's get started now.**

In light of our high calling,



**Josh  
MCDOWELL  
MINISTRY**  
*Until the whole world hears*  
A Cru Ministry

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RESOURCE GUIDE

EPIDEMIC  
PROPORTION



## WHY THIS IS SO IMPORTANT

Why do I care so much about the online porn epidemic?

My mission began the day I caught a cable news interview in which a cultural activist brazenly declared: “We won the sex education war, we won the gay/lesbian war, we won the same-sex marriage war, and trust me, we will win the porn war ... you might as well give up!” Upon hearing this, and thinking of the future of our grandchildren, I jumped up and shouted, *“Not if I can help it!”*

“Josh,” admitted one pastor to me after one of my talks, “my 22-year-old son is a youth pastor. He just told me he’s addicted to pornography! It started at 7 years old, and he can’t stop. I don’t know what to do. And I don’t know how to talk to my own church about pornography!”

## THE PROBLEM: SCIENCE & SCOPE

Research confirms that porn addiction is more powerful, demoralizing, and devastating than an addiction to alcohol or drugs because an addict’s brain is literally rewired to need porn. And the addiction goes way beyond the issue of lust. It’s a brain issue that may start from curiosity, but most often starts from a deep emotional wound or trauma.

**With the launch of the internet and with increasing popularity of smartphones, porn has now become at least a \$5 billion worldwide industry that costs U.S. businesses \$16.8 billion in productivity per year.**

One porn site was 3,110 petabytes in bandwidth. That’s the equivalent of more than 2 trillion sheets of 8.5” x 11” paper — which would require more than **20 billion 4-drawer file cabinets** to store it. The second largest porn site on the Net gets 100 million page views a day, serving up 4,000 videos a SECOND during its peak hours.

## SOCIETAL STANDARDS & PORN’S ONLINE PROLIFERATION

Most Americans believe porn is ‘bad for society,’ but those attitudes are shifting toward neutrality or ‘good for society’ among younger generations.

**Why do people think porn is okay?**

The message of truth our youth aren’t getting is that regular porn use is associated with sexual attitudes and behaviors that can be harmful to intimate relationships.

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90% Think A Person Decides Right & Wrong Based On Desires & Dreams

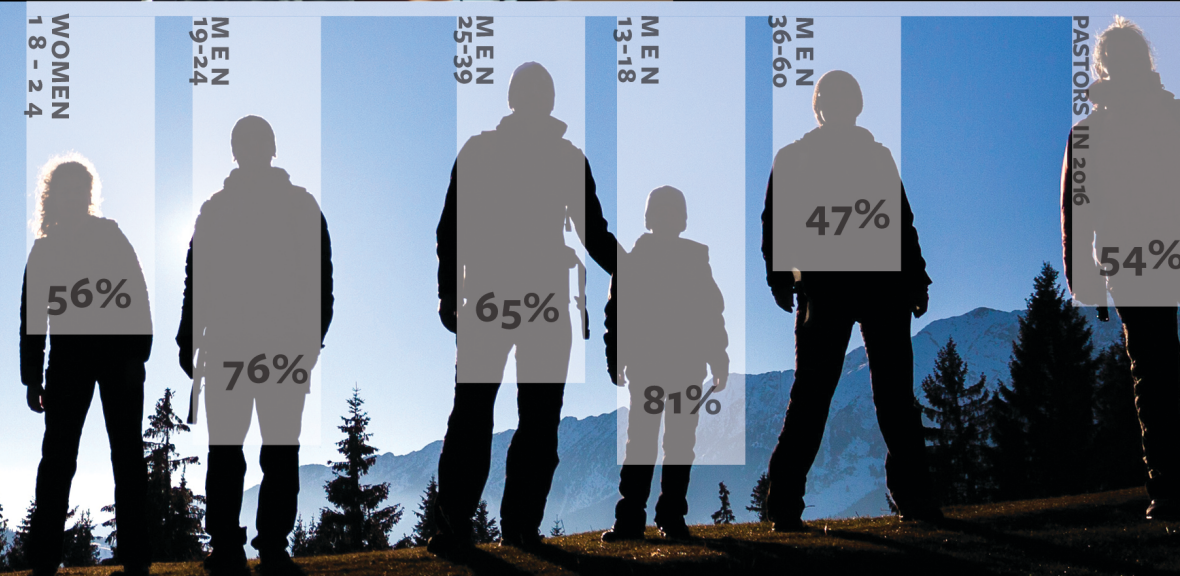
50% Think Ethics & Morals Are Based On One’s Own Judgment

**Societal Snapshot:** Specific to the expression of sexual desire, nearly 9 out of 10 Americans believe each person gets to decide what is right and wrong, based on their needs, desires, hopes, and dreams. Half of all American adults believe that morals & ethics are based on what seems right to a person based on his or her own judgment and ideas.

## THE TARGET: OUR CHILDREN

Some researchers believe that many children now experience their first exposure to porn as early as six years of age. **The Porn Phenomenon** study discovered that 71% of teenagers between 13 and 17 come across online porn without even looking for it.

Only one in 20 young adults and one in 10 teens say their friends think viewing pornography is a bad thing.



*The Porn Phenomenon Study* uncovered alarming facts among Christian men & women who actively seek out porn. Worse, it identified pastors are seeking out porn as well.

**NEXT STEPS**