



How and when should I educate my children about sexual purity and internet safety?

Scripture is abundantly clear in the area of purity (1 Cor 6:18; 1 Thess 4:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; Psalm 119:37; Colossians 3:5; Gal 5:19-21; and many more). There is no room for confusion in this arena. However, it's awkward. Many times, fear drives parents to wait too long to have needed conversations. Boundaries are never established and students find themselves in trouble. Pastor Matt quoted a few troubling statistics:

Did you know...

- 9 out of 10 boys were *exposed to pornography* before the age of 18.
- The *first exposure to pornography* among men is *12 years old*.
 - 6 out of 10 girls were *exposed to pornography before the age of 18*.
 - 28% of 16-17 year olds have been *unintentionally exposed to porn online*.
 - *20% of 16-year-olds* have received a sext and *30% of 17-year-olds* have received a sext.

On average...

- 15% of boys and 9% of girls *have seen child pornography*.
- 32% of boys and 18% of girls *have seen bestiality online*.
- 83% of boys and 57% of girls *have seen group sex online*.
- 69% of boys and 55% of girls *have seen same-sex intercourse online*.
- Roughly two-thirds (67 percent) of young men and one-half (49 percent) of young women agree that viewing pornography is acceptable.
- 71% of teens hide online behavior from their parents.

life group study guide

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Again and again the book of Proverbs warns. The father repeatedly pleads with his son to listen. Take a moment and read Proverbs 4. As parents we need to protect our children but also help them to learn to make wise choices. We hope and pray our influence continues as our control diminishes. We hope and pray our kids will make wise – God honoring choices.

Discussion questions:

1. What measures, if any, have you taken to guard your child/grandchildren against technology-based access to pornography? Do you need to take more proactive steps?
 2. Rather than simply protect, how might you also teach your children to make wise choices in this area?
 3. How might you address the situation if your choices have been poor?
 4. Many young people today consider looking at pornography to be “no big deal” because so many of their peers are doing it. Knowing how pornography damages the brain, how might you refute that idea?
 5. Are your media standards God-honoring? Are you modeling Christ-likeness in your own music, movie and television choices? What changes, if any, do you need to make?
 6. What have/can you done to help your son define manhood as Christ-likeness instead of the world’s definition of manhood (ability to sexually conquer females)? What have/can you done to help your daughter know how unique, lovely and priceless she is to you?
- Moving forward, what can you do?