

# PREACHING ON PORNOGRAPHY

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# PRAISE for the TRAINING CAMP



The Conquerors Through Christ Training Camp does a great job in giving us the courage of Scripture to address the seemingly ever-present reality of temptation to sexual impurity. Especially in an age where pornography is never more than a few mouse clicks away—with the deceitful appearance of anonymity that surfing the web gives us—how important that pastors have the courage to preach with all the boldness of the Apostle Paul on the issue of sexual sin (and pornography in particular) . . . The materials remember that only the gospel of Christ can both comfort us and empower us to will and to do according to our God's good purpose for our lives.

*Dr. Richard Gurgel,  
Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary*

The Conquerors through Christ Training Camp has helped me become more comfortable in verbalizing sexual sins in the sermon setting. If a pastor can't talk about porn from the pulpit, where can he talk about it? Our people are craving for us to be real about their real sins.

*Nathan Moldenhauer  
Immanuel Lutheran Church in Greenville, WI*

Unfortunately, pornography seems like it will always be a timely topic. The training camp forced me face this tough topic head on. I really appreciated how the materials verbalized this sin for the purpose of healing souls and families as it clearly shared the good news of Jesus, making it a great tool for pastors in their personal lives and their professional lives as they look to heal and equip others.

*Pastor Joel Heckendorf,  
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greenville, WI*

Not only does this material serve our Church's leaders in a remarkable way by practically addressing porn, which is undeniably a crisis issue for our people, but it brings us deeper insight into the right applications of law and gospel, something the Church cannot afford to get wrong. I can't recommend this material enough for brothers in the ministry who preach regularly.

*Pastor Bill Monday  
St. Peter Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI*

# WELCOME

Welcome to the Conquerors through Christ Training Camp! We pray this resource helps you to preach clearly, powerfully, and pastorally to those in your congregation who are affected by the pandemic of pornography. Whether they are full-blown addicts, occasional viewers, or loved ones affected by another's sexual sin, we hope that your sermons can provide hope and healing.

The CtCTC is ideal for gatherings of preachers (circuit meetings, pastors' conferences, staff meetings, etc.) who are interested in spurring one another on to be proactive in fighting the Enemy's lies concerning purity, shame, and God's ability to forgive struggling sinners.

In the following pages, you will discover a five-part training camp that includes both short videos and learning activities. Instructions for each activity are included and your facilitator will guide you through the videos.

Few things are as powerful as a clear message from God's timeless Word. We at Conquerors through Christ pray that the CtCTC equips you to bless God's people with the grace and truth that they need to honor God with their bodies in our challenging culture!

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**Note to Facilitators:** Your job is to facilitate the larger group discussions and to guide the transitions from video segments to learning activities. For most groups, the entire CtCTC takes approximately six hours to cover. Therefore, consider if (1) a one day event, (2) two separate three-hour sessions, broken up between the Demonize and Evangelize sections, or (3) five 70-minute sessions, one session per major part, is best for your specific context. Finally, make sure to take adequate breaks of fifteen minutes between sessions to keep energy levels high and brains at full capacity.

Thank you in advance for preparing to make the CtCTC a blessing to all who attend!

## INTRODUCTION:

### Play Video #1: Start with Why?

*Why would pastors consider preaching on something as potentially offensive as pornography? Because they love God's people.*

- If pastors \_\_\_\_\_,  
their people \_\_\_\_\_.
- VNDES
  - Verbalize** – Say something about pornography when you preach.
  - Normalize** – Use stats/stories to make porn “normal” enough to confess.
  - Demonize** – Explain why porn is a demonic attempt to kill God's good gifts.
  - Evangelize** – Share the good news of Jesus' forgiveness with porn users.
  - Strategize** – Give the saved specific tips on fighting sexual sin.

## ACTIVITY:

In groups of 3-4 people, share your experiences with preaching on pornography. Have you ever talked specifically about it? How did people react? If you could go back, what would you do differently?

## PART 1: VERBALIZE (VNDES)

**Verbalize** – Say something about pornography when you preach.

**Normalize** – Use stats/stories to make porn “normal” enough to confess.

**Demonize** – Explain why porn is a demonic attempt to kill God’s good gifts.

**Evangelize** – Share the good news of Jesus’ forgiveness with porn users.

**Strategize** – Give the saved specific tips on fighting sexual sin.

### Play Video #2: PG-13 Proverbs

*Fathers who love their children talk about taboo subjects. Pastors who love their people do the same.*

### ACTIVITY #1: VERBA-LIES

While it would not be wise for pastors to say something about pornography in every sermon, it is essential that they verbalize the issue in some sermons. After all, if pastors don’t preach about pornography, the Devil still will. In groups of 3-4, read Ephesians 4:17-19, Paul’s words to the Christians who lived in sex-saturated Ephesus. List at least six things that might happen if pastors don’t verbalize the truth about sexuality, purity, and pornography. Finally, share your answers with the entire group.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

### Play Video #3: Why Preach?

*While counseling sessions and Bible classes are important in the fight for purity, verbalizing the issue from the pulpit is essential.*

## ACTIVITY #2: LITTLE EARS AND OFFENDED ETHEL

Many preachers are concerned about the little ears who will overhear the “PG-13 preaching” on pornography. In addition, they fear offending those who might find the topic inappropriate for a worship service. Therefore, (1) personally think about the three statements below, (2) pair up with 1-2 others to share your answers, and (3) discuss your answers with the entire group.

1. **Evaluate:** It is better for a 6 year-old to first hear about porn from the Word than for a 10 year-old to first hear about porn from the world.
2. **Evaluate:** The taboo nature of sexuality in the pulpit is one of the main reasons why sexual sin is flourishing among Christians today.
3. **Evaluate:** A pastor who shares statistics about porn use among Christians will turn elderly and/or offended listeners into his allies.

### Play Video #4: My First Porn

*Since children are seeing graphic pornography at a shockingly early age, loving pastors preach proactively.*

### ACTIVITY #3: LET THE TEXT TALK

When is the right time to preach about pornography? How can a preacher make this potentially awkward topic as natural and biblically textual as possible? Thankfully, whether you follow the traditional readings of the church year (the pericope) or craft your own sermon series, there are ample opportunities to preach on pornography. Use the suggested readings below to discover how often the Scriptures allow textual preachers to address this issue. Work in groups of 3-4 people and, after four minutes of discussion, share your insights with the entire group.

**The Porn Pericope:** Themes like sexual immorality, lust, purity of heart, etc. appear in a whopping number of the weeks listed in the ILCW Scripture readings. Grab a Bible, skim the references below and connect each reading to our modern struggle with pornography.

#### A. Year A

1. Christmas Eve: Titus 2:11-14
2. Epiphany 6: 2 Samuel 11/1 Th. 4:1-12/Mt. 5:21-37

#### B. Year B

1. Good Friday: Hebrews 7:26-28
2. Pentecost 21: Hebrews 13:1-6

#### C. Year C

1. Pentecost 5: Genesis 39
2. Pentecost 23: 1 John 2:15-17

**Note:** A list of all of the pericope readings and possible connections to verbalizing porn can be found in the Addenda.

**Play Video #5: 0 for 70**

*Even faithful preachers might forget to say something about porn in their preaching.*



**Closing Prayer:** Dear Father, you have called me to courageously and faithfully shepherd your people. My heart's desire is to protect them from the Father of Lies, the Enemy who has twisted sex into a way to steal, kill, and destroy your blessings. Give me wisdom and boldness as I say what is true, beautiful, and life-giving in the midst of this confused and corrupt generation. Bless every soul in my church with ears to hear and understanding of my motives. So many of your sons and daughters are desperate for help, and I pray you would equip me to say exactly what their hearts need. I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

## PART 2: NORMALIZE (VNDES)

**Verbalize** – Say something about pornography when you preach.

**Normalize** – Use stats/stories to make porn “normal” enough to confess.

**Demonize** – Explain why porn is a demonic attempt to kill God’s good gifts.

**Evangelize** – Share the good news of Jesus’ forgiveness with porn users.

**Strategize** – Give the saved specific tips on fighting sexual sin.

### Play Video #6: I’m Not Normal

*Since feeling abnormal keeps Christians from confession, wise pastors seek to normalize, without excusing or minimizing, sexual sin.*

Note: Pastors who have struggled with pornography should pray and seek wise counsel before deciding if/when/how much of their story to share publicly.

### ACTIVITY #1: CRUNCH YOUR NUMBERS

Christian porn users feel abnormal until they know the numbers. Accurate statistics about porn read among Christians both encourages users to feel part of their church family and helps non-users realize how many of their brothers and sisters are facing temptation.

Use the following statistics from *The Porn Phenomenon*, a study of nearly 3,000 people’s pornography use, and crunch the numbers for your local ministry. Finally, discuss the challenge question in groups of 3-4 people.

- 33% of Americans (13 and older) seek out porn at least once/month.

If \_\_\_\_\_ teenagers and adults live on my street, that means \_\_\_\_\_ people who live near me are dealing with porn every month!

- 13% of practicing Christians seek out porn at least once/month. If my church has \_\_\_\_\_ teenagers and adults, that means \_\_\_\_\_ people who hear my next sermon are struggling with pornography!

- Among adults who use pornography, 87% say that they have no one who is helping them avoid it. If that is true in my church, \_\_\_\_\_ people are desperate for help but do not know to whom to turn!
- 43% of senior pastors admit porn has been a struggle in the past. If there are \_\_\_\_\_ pastors at this gathering, that means \_\_\_\_\_ have battled with this sin in their own lives!

**Challenge:** What would be the most effective way to share these statistics to raise awareness and compassion at your church?

## ACTIVITY #2: WATCH YOUR WORDING

One of the best ways to create a culture of confession is to watch your wording. Labels and pronouns have power to either encourage sexual sinners to come into the light or to shove them back into the darkness where sexual sins festers and thrives.

In groups of 3-4 people, evaluate the following snippets from Pastor Smith's sermon. Grade him (A, B, C, D, or F) on his ability to normalize the porn struggles among his people.

- A. "The world, sadly, has no respect for God's design for sexuality. The people of the world mock Jesus' view on marriage. They sext their significant others. They waste their nights pursuing porn online. Therefore, we must protect ourselves and our children from the corruption of the world."
  
- B. "Ryan and his wife were fighting . . . again. Being a man, he was more interested in intimacy than she was. Wired as a visual male, he faced daily temptation that she would never quite understand. When he turned to pornography, she exploded with confusion and anger. His friends sympathized. Her friends picked up stones."
  
- C. "Maria learned that marriage was not a quick fix for sexual temptation. Like so many of her brothers and sisters at church, she continued to struggle with lust even after her heartfelt vows. She loved her husband, loved her Savior even more, but part of her heart loved the escape that pornography provided."

### Play Video #7: Audrey's Story

*While Christian men may statistically struggle with porn more often than their sisters in Christ, compassionate pastors normalize the struggle for all people.*

### ACTIVITY #3: SCRIPT WITH STORIES

A powerful way to normalize this struggle and encourage people to reach out for help is to describe what will happen once they do. Telling stories gives people a mental script of the conversation that would happen when they step forward in honest confession.

In groups of 3-4, complete the following sermon illustration with the details that would encourage the porn users at your church to come forward and ask for help. Then, share your answers with the entire group.

“A few years ago, Mark was struggling with pornography. He was nervous to talk to me because he assumed \_\_\_\_\_. That’s why he was surprised when I told him, ‘\_\_\_\_\_.’ The Devil had made him forget that Jesus (and Christians who have the heart of Christ) feels \_\_\_\_\_ for those who are caught in sexual sin. So, if you’re struggling, and lots of your brothers and sisters are, reach out for help. I would love to tell you about the Savior who died for sexual sins just like yours.”

#### Play Video #8: Safety First

*Pastors have the privilege and challenge to create safe environments for every type of sinner that walks through their doors.*



**Closing Prayer:** Dear Jesus, you came to rescue sinners from the darkness and shame of sin, and this sin is no exception. Please send the Holy Spirit to give me the right words to say as I preach so that your people who are losing the battle against temptation might find a community of accepting Christians and, most importantly, reminders of your never-failing love. Grace me with the message, the tone, and the non-verbals to draw sexual sinners into the light of honest confession that will enable me to speak a hopeful word to hurting hearts. In your name I pray, Amen.

## PART 3: DEMONIZE (VNDES)

**Verbalize** – Say something about pornography when you preach.

**Normalize** – Use stats/stories to make porn “normal” enough to confess.

**Demonize** – Explain why porn is a demonic attempt to kill God’s good gifts.

**Evangelize** – Share the good news of Jesus’ forgiveness with porn users.

**Strategize** – Give the saved specific tips on fighting sexual sin.

### Play Video #9: The Naked Truth

*While pornography is packaged as exciting, alluring, and fun, it is actually an invention of those who hate God and his people.*

### ACTIVITY #1: PORN KILLS

In groups of 3-4, read the following passages and list the good gifts that Satan wants to put to death through sexual sin. After 4 minutes, compile your list with the other groups’ lists.

- Romans 1:24-25—“Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.”
- 1 Corinthians 6:18—“Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.”
- Matthew 18:6—“If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.”
- Ephesians 5:11—“Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.”

- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8—“It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.”

#### Play Video #10: The Demonically Trained Brain

*Dopamine, Oxytocin, Vasopressin, and Epinephrine are the demons’ tools for turning sinners into slaves.*

## ACTIVITY #2: PORN KILLS (PART II)

We often think of pornography's effect on our lives, our families, our bodies and our faith. But what about the lives, bodies, and faith of our families, our friends, and our culture? In small groups, discuss the negative impact porn use has on the following aspects of life:

- The way young people view sex
- The way women view their own bodies
- The expectations spouses bring to the marriage bed
- The limited time we have to pray, study, and serve
- The rampant sex trafficking industry

### Play Video #11: Reframing Porn

*Porn looks fun on camera, but outside the frame is a world of brokenness and misery.*

### ACTIVITY #3: "YOU SHALL NOT!" VS. "WHY NOT?"

In the 4th commandment, God explains why we should not dishonor our parents and others in authority, namely, to enjoy a long life on the earth. In the same way, wise preachers explain the "Why not?" behind God's "You Shall Not!"

In groups of 3-4, take these sermon snippets from good to great by adding a credible explanation to the preacher's prohibition. After you've completed the exercise, share your thoughts with another group.

- "In Matthew 5, Jesus forbids lust in the strongest of terms. The world tells us that pornography is a fun way to express our sexual freedom. But the Word himself tells us that pornography is a plague. Therefore, stay away from it!"
- "In 1 Corinthians 6, Paul commands us, 'Flee from sexual immorality.' Just four words with one big idea. Run. Don't ask questions. Don't stay and see what happens. Just flee."

#### Play Video #12: Recycling & Porn

*Insightful preachers do not assume that church-going people agree that pornography is demonic.*



**Closing Prayer:** Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner. In moments of temptation I have forgotten the damage that every impure click does to your world, your people, and my own soul. I praise you today not only for opening my eyes to the true nature of pornography but also for refusing to treat me as my sins deserve. Thank you for the amazing grace that forgives my sins and dares to call me worthy of the kingdom of God. Give me courage to tell your people how demonic pornography is while reminding them of your unfailing mercy. I need your help to do this, Lord, which is why I am praying in Jesus' name, Amen.

## PART 4: EVANGELIZE (VNDES)

**Verbalize** – Say something about pornography when you preach.

**Normalize** – Use stats/stories to make porn “normal” enough to confess.

**Demonize** – Explain why porn is a demonic attempt to kill God’s good gifts.

**Evangelize** – Share the good news of Jesus’ forgiveness with porn users.

**Strategize** – Give the saved specific tips on fighting sexual sin.

### Play Video #13: VNDS vs. VNDES

*While many Christian resources verbalize, normalize, demonize, and strategize, very few evangelize those struggling with sexual sin.*

### ACTIVITY #1: JESUS’ XXX FAMILY TREE

Ponder the names listed in Jesus’ family tree in Matthew 1 (below). How many sexual sinners do you see? What might be powerful about pointing out names like Tamar (a female prostitute), Ruth (a pagan woman), and Mary (a Jewish virgin) in your preaching? How could connecting this chapter to Hebrews 2:11 be a powerful way to evangelize those struggling with porn in your church? Discuss your findings in groups of 3-4.

Matthew 1—“This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham: Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah’s wife, Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and

his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon. After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Elihud, Elihud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.”

Hebrews 2:11—“Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.”

#### Play Video #14: Thank God for Genealogies!

*The Scriptures are filled with sexual sinners that God was not ashamed to call his beloved sons and daughters.*

### ACTIVITY #2: EVALUATING EVANGELISTIC PREACHING

Read the sermon snippets below and rank the most powerful paragraphs from the perspective of a sexual sinner. Then explain your answers in groups of 3-4 people.

- “God so loved the world. Did you hear that? The world! The world includes you and him and her and us all. The world includes worriers and liars and those who try to get their way. The world includes every kind of sinner you can think of. If you’re in this world, congratulations. God loves you.”
- “For being sexually sinless, Jesus sure had a thing for sexual sinners. Abraham slept with his maidservant. Judah had a secret prostitute habit. David was a peeping Tom and an adulterer. Yet Jesus was related to them. Jesus redeemed them. Jesus rescued them from the guilt, shame, and eternal consequence of their sexual sin. And—praise be to God!—Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. That means if you have acted like those men, Jesus still loves you.”

- “Brothers and sisters, sexual sin is killing us. Jesus did not die on the cross so we could go back and sit in the mud puddles of porn. He died to make us clean. So, live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Fight the temptation. Flee from pornography. Honor God with your body.”
- “Did you know most Ephesians grew up worshiping a pornographic goddess named Artemis? Yet, because they were in Christ, Paul calls them saints, holy, blameless, members of God’s household. Many of us have had a less than pure past as well. But what Jesus did for the Ephesians, he did for you. No matter what you’ve done or seen or hidden, in Christ you are a saint! You are holy! You are blameless! You are one of God’s beloved kids, a member of his household!”

### ACTIVITY #3: DIY PREACHING

Choose one of the following passages and write a paragraph that would speak grace to someone who had given into lust before the church service. Then, share your paragraph with a fellow preacher.

- 1 John 1:9
- 1 Peter 5:7
- Psalm 50:15

#### Play Video #15: The List

*God uses the gospel not only to purify us from our sins but also to motivate us to honor him with our bodies.*



**Closing Prayer:** Jesus, you loved the Woman at the Well, the Prodigal Son, and the prostitutes who confessed their sexual sins to you. You love me and my entire congregation too. I praise you for always letting grace get the last word. I thank you that whenever our lusts increase, your grace increases even more. Since you are the King of mercy, I ask that you would help me to specialize in sharing your mercy every Sunday. Give me skill to apply it specifically so that every last soul that hears my next sermon is moved to praise you at my side. In your name, Amen.

## PART 5: STRATEGIZE (VNDES)

**Verbalize** – Say something about pornography when you preach.

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### Play Video #16: Satan’s Strategies

*Since Satan is strategizing in his battle against our sexual purity, we are wise to have a spiritual strategy of our own.*

### ACTIVITY #1: RUN WITH THEM

After the power of the gospel, sexual addiction specialists say the best way to escape from sexual sin is through accountability. In groups of 3-4 people, list at least five reasons why you believe this is true. Finally, brainstorm ways to facilitate/encourage accountability through your preaching.

#### 5 Reasons Accountability Works

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

I could encourage accountability in my next sermon by...

**Note:** Accountability works best when it is (1) spread across a network of Christian friends, family members, pastors, and counselors in addition to being (2) focused on Jesus’ perfect love as opposed to our hit-or-miss obedience.

**Play Video #17: I'll Get Better When . . .**

*While not a one-step solution to lust, accountability is one of God's most powerful ways to free us from habitual sin.*

**Note:** Conquerors through Christ offers a free Encouragement Partner Guide to help your people take the first step towards Christ-centered community. Download it for free at [conquerorsthroughchrist.net](http://conquerorsthroughchrist.net) under the Resource tab.

## ACTIVITY #2: RUN TO HIM

Porn promises to meet the cravings of the human heart. In groups of 3-4, expose the broken promises of porn and compare them to the unfailing gifts that God has given to us in his Son. Finally, share how your answers might affect your next sermon.

- Porn promises to cure our loneliness, but in the end it \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

God, on the other hand, keeps his promise to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

- Porn promises to make us feel better after a bad day, but in the end it \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

God, on the other hand, keeps his promise to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

- Porn promises an escape from our tedious lives, but in the end it \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

God, on the other hand, keeps his promise to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

- Porn promises to turn us into better lovers, but in the end it \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

God, on the other hand, keeps his promise to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

### Play Video #18: Move-In Ready?

*Pastors seek not only to rid God's people of porn but also to fill up their hearts with the satisfying presence of God.*

### ACTIVITY #3: RUN FROM IT

Review the following tips from anti-porn authors. Which do you feel would be the most helpful to mention in your sermons? Which would be the least? Explain your answers in groups of 3-4 people.

- Bounce the Eyes—Train your eyes to immediately bounce from a potential object of lust until your natural instinct is to visually flee from temptation. As Job said, “I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a young woman.”
- Monitor your H.E.A.L.T.H.—Be aware of/minimize moments when you are Hungry (missing meals), lack Energy (missing workouts), feel Angry (stuffing emotions), feel Lonely (disconnected from friends and family), feel Tired (missing sleep), and/or have an empty Heart (missing the Word/prayer).
- Filter the Foul—Use an internet filter (like Covenant Eyes or X3 Watch) to make pornographic content more difficult to access, allowing time for the Holy Spirit to remind you who you are and what porn will do to you.
- Dimmer Switch—Recognize that rewiring and rebooting your porn-addicted brain takes time. For most Christians, fleeing from sexual temptation is a dimmer switch and not a light switch, more of a process than a one-time decision. Therefore, rejoice in increasing victories and beware of expecting perfection.

#### Play Video #19: Strategies for Shepherds

*Conquerors through Christ offers many resources to help pastors lead their congregations towards grace-inspired purity.*

## TOP 10 RESOURCES ON THE CtC WEBSITE

**Bought at a Price:** CtC's Bible Study for those who struggle with sexual sin and those who love sexual sinners. Free to download!

**Easily Sharable Social Media:** CtC's professionally managed Facebook page provides easy ways to share God's Word with your people.

**Parent Support System:** A series of eBooks for parents to teach healthy sexuality from the youngest age.

**From Dirty to Dancing:** A quick and easy read (90 pages) by CtC Chairman Mike Novotny that helps those struggling with pornography find help in Jesus Christ.

**Reject:** An entire section of blog posts, book reviews, and practical wisdom for those trying to walk away from the next click.

**Resist:** An entire section of blog posts, book reviews, and practical wisdom for those trying to protect their children from their first click.

**Recover:** An entire section of blog posts, book reviews, and practical wisdom for couples trying to rebuild after the last click.

**Accountability Software:** Reviews of some popular options for filtering/accountability software like Covenant Eyes and X3 Watch.

**CtC Newsletter:** An encouraging word that can easily be shared on your church's social media channels and/or website.

**Recommended Counselors:** CtC approved professional counselors who serve locally and/or via internet services.



**Closing Prayer:** God, you are the source of all wisdom. In this very moment, you know exactly what step would help each of your people escape from the grip of pornography. You already know the perfect accountability partner, the perfect passage, and the perfect words that will inspire those that we both love so dearly. Please fill me with your wisdom that I might equip your people with all that they need to glorify you in this aspect of their lives. Use books, blogs, sermons, "random" conversations, and everything under your control to help me strategize with your saints. I ask it all in my Savior's name, Amen.

## CONCLUSION: VNDES!

**Verbalize** – Say something about pornography when you preach.

**Normalize** – Use stats/stories to make porn “normal” enough to confess.

**Demonize** – Explain why porn is a demonic attempt to kill God’s good gifts.

**Evangelize** – Share the good news of Jesus’ forgiveness with porn users.

**Strategize** – Give the saved specific tips on fighting sexual sin.

### Play Video #20: One Last Thing

*Now is the time to specify your next steps and pray for God to bless your upcoming sermons in light of all that you have learned.*

**Final Task:** In order to preach more clearly, compassionately, and strategically on pornography, I am going to . . .

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX 1 — THE PORN PERICOPE

The opportunity to “verbalize” pornography is not limited to preachers who craft their own sermon series. The pericope, or selected readings of the church year, is filled with connections to sexuality, purity, adultery, passions, pleasures, clean hands, and purifying grace. Review the readings below, taken from the supplemental lectionary of the Christian Worship Supplement, as you seek to preach textually on the topic of pornography.

The goal of this appendix is not to squeeze pornography into any and every reference to sin, godlessness, etc. Although applications to sexual sin could easily be made in every reading from Corinthians or Ephesians or Hosea (given the cultural context of those books), the point of the following pages is to open preachers’ eyes to the frequency that the lectionary specifically addresses areas of sexuality. This enables preachers to speak naturally and textually to the issues of sexual sin that are affecting their congregations.

Note: Certain Sundays, such as Epiphany 6 (Year A) or Pentecost 4 (Year C), have a strong emphasis on sexuality throughout the readings and provide a great opportunity to make God’s love for sexual sinners a theme for the service. Consider leveraging this opportunity to help God’s people with other resources from your church and/or materials from *Conquerors through Christ*.

YEAR A		
Sunday	Lesson	Porn Connection
Advent 1	Romans 13:11-14	“Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.”
Christmas Eve	Titus 2:11-14	“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.”
Christmas 2	Genesis 16:1-16	“[Sarah] said to Abram, ‘The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her.’”
Epiphany 6	2 Sam. 11:1-1, 26-27	“One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful . . . She came to him, and he slept with her.”

	1 Th. 4:1-12	"It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God."
	Mt. 5:21-37	"But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."
	Psalms 119:9-16	"How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word."
Epiphany 8	Phlp. 4:8-13	"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."
Ash Wednesday	2 Cor. 7:8-13a	"I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance." (N.B.—This sorrow is over the sexual sin mentioned in 1 Cor. 5.)
	Psalms 51:1-7	"A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba."
Lent 2	Jn. 4:5-26	"Jesus said to her, 'You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband.'"
Lent 3	Eph. 5:8-14	"Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret." (N.B.—The context of Eph. 5:1-7 is largely sexual sin.)
Good Friday	Heb. 4:14-16; 5:7-9	"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin."
Easter 2	Psalms 16:1-5	"You will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."
Pentecost	Psalms 51:1-7	"A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba."

Pentecost 6	1 Jn. 2:15-17	"For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world."
Pentecost 9	1 Pet. 4:1-8	"For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry."
Pentecost 13	Joshua 2:8-21	Rahab the prostitute said, "Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family."
Pentecost 15	Judges 16:22-31	"Then Samson [a notorious womanizer, prostitute-lover] prayed to the Lord, "Sovereign Lord, remember me."
Pentecost 16	Psalms 51a	"A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba."
Pentecost 19	Mt. 21:28-32	"Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.'"

YEAR B		
Sunday	Lesson	Porn Connection
Christmas Eve	Titus 2:11-14	"For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age."
Epiphany 7	Psalms 32	David, post-adultery—"Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.' And you forgave the guilt of my sin."
Epiphany 8	Hosea 2:14-16, 19-20	Spoken to adulterous Israel—"Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her."
Ash Wednesday	2 Sam. 12:1-13	"You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own."

	Psalm 51a	"A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba."
Lent 3	Ex. 20:1-17	"You shall not commit adultery . . . You shall not covet your neighbor's wife."
Good Friday	Heb. 7:26-28	"Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens."
Easter 2	Psalm 16	"You will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."
Easter 7	Heb. 7:11-27	"Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens."
Pentecost	Psalm 51b	"A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba."
Pentecost 4	Psalm 51a	"A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba."
Pentecost 6	2 Sam. 12:11-25	"Then David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the Lord.' Nathan replied, 'The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. But . . .'"
Pentecost 8	1 Tim. 3:1-7	"Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife..."
Pentecost 11	1 Cor. 10:1-5, 11-13	"These things [v.8's sexual immorality included] happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us."
Pentecost 13	Eph. 5:15-20	"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery."
Pentecost 15	James 1:17-27	"Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you."
	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15	"Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them." (Jesus applies this to sexual immorality in v.21.)

Pentecost 19	Mark 9:38-50	"And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell." (A reminder of lust from Mt. 5?)
	Psalm 51b	"A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba."
Pentecost 20	Gen. 2:18-24	"That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame."
	Mk. 10:2-16	"The two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh."
Pentecost 21	Heb. 13:1-6	"Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral."
Pentecost 24	Rom. 13:8-14	"Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh."
	Psalm 119a	"How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word."

<b>YEAR C</b>		
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Lesson</b>	<b>Porn Connection</b>
Advent 1	Gen. 19:15-17, 23-29	"Then the Lord rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah."
Advent 2	Mal. 3:1-14	"So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers... ' says the Lord Almighty."
	Psalm 24	"Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart."
Christmas Day	1 John 1:1-9	"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Epiphany 8	1 Cor. 5:9-6:4	"But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people."
Ash Wednesday	Rev. 3:14-22	"I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see."
	Psalms 51a	"A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba."
Lent 3	1 Cor. 10:1-13	"We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did."
	Psalms 38	"My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear." (Bathsheba connection?)
	Lk. 15:1-3, 11b-32	"But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!"
Maundy Thursday	Heb. 10:15-25	"Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water."
Easter 2	Psalms 16	"You will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."
Easter 6	Rev. 3:14-22	"I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see."
Pentecost	Psalms 51b	"A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba."
Pentecost 4	2 Chr. 33:1-6, 10-18	"[Manasseh] rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had demolished; he also erected altars to the Baals and made Asherah poles."
	1 Cor. 6:9-11	"Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers . . . will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were."

	Lk. 7:36-50	"A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume."
Pentecost 5	Gen. 39:6b-12, 16-23	"And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her."
Pentecost 10	Gen. 18:20-32	"Then the Lord said, 'The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know.'"
Pentecost 12	Rev. 3:1-6	"The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white."
Pentecost 15	Psalms 119a	"How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word."
Pentecost 17	Hos. 3:1-5	"The Lord said to me, 'Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites.'"
	2 Cor. 2:5-11	"Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort [the repentant sexual sinner], so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow."
	Lk. 15:1-10	"Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus." (Later verses imply these "sinners" included prostitutes.)
	Psalms 51a	"A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba."
Pentecost 23	1 Jn. 2:15-17	"For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world."



Conquerors through Christ is a gospel-focused ministry that exists to help God's people reject, resist, and recover from the wreckage of pornography. You can find free resources, helpful articles, recommended counselors, book suggestions, Bible studies, parenting helps, and much more at [www.conquerorsthroughchrist.net](http://www.conquerorsthroughchrist.net).