

WEEK THIRTY-ONE, DISCIPLE MAKING

Chapter 7, "Breaking the Shackles of Sexual Bondage," RSG

In his article, *The Pornification of the Church*, John Stonestreet from breakpoint.org gives the following insights regarding sexual bondage and Christians:

Nearly 15 years ago, a survey found that Christians looked at pornography at nearly the same rates as non-believers. Zogby International asked more than a thousand U.S. adults whether they had ever visited a sexually-oriented web site. Only one in five had done so. Among born-again Christians, 18 percent had gone to such sites, just three percentage points less than the general public.

More recently, a group called Proven Men Ministries hired the Barna Group to study current pornography use.

*Barna discovered that "64 percent of American men and 20 percent of women view pornography at least monthly. And for **Christian men, that number is 55 percent.**"*

Stonestreet summarizes his finding with this staggering statistic, "fourteen years ago, only one out of every three men had ever gone to a pornography site, but now nearly one-third of men under 30 do so on a *daily* basis."

Our study this week, *Breaking the Shackles of Sexual Bondage*, is a crucial topic!

The following questions are given to aid you as you lead the discussion this week and apply the truths from Chapter 7. It is not imperative for you to use these questions or to cover all of them.

- **Logan writes, "Of the people who come to see me for counseling, about 90 percent are men. And of these men, the great majority are in some form of sexual bondage. . . (However) our permissive society has now made it seem acceptable for women to pursue every possible sexual perversion too." (Pages 119-120)** To add to Logan's finding, "*According to a New York Times survey in Dec. 2015, 31 percent of the women said they watched porn every week, another 30 percent said they did so a few times a month and 10 percent of respondents gets a daily fix.*" *While these views are hopefully not reflective of the Christian population, they do reflect where much of our culture is. **Discuss the impact of sexual bondage in our society (and the church) today.***

- In relating Satan’s pull toward sexual sins and strongholds, Logan describes how a teenager he had counseled was led to pornographic literature in his dad’s dresser.

“Logan asks, ‘Where did you find them?’ ‘Well,’ he said, ‘I just sort of pulled out the bottom drawer of my dad’s dresser, and there they were on the floor inside the dresser.’ Now most teenagers don’t go around checking under dresser drawers in their parents’ bedroom. So I asked this young man, ‘What in the world made you do that?’ ‘I don’t know, I just got this thought to look there.’ It doesn’t take a brain surgeon to figure out who might have planted that thought in this teenager’s mind” (Page 126).

Discuss the “schemes of Satan” when it comes to pornography. These could include: the damage to a person’s soul, the damage to marriage, and the spiritual impotency of Christian men in light of Solomon’s words, “Give not your strength to women (Prov. 30:3).” (This last word is not a warning against marital intimacy, but a warning against being like Samson and wasting your strength, your power, and life.)

- Logan’s, *Higher Ground: Leaving Sexual Bondage* is worth the price of the book. Please draw attention to it (Page 125).
- Logan’s section on Soul Ties is a brief examination of what happens when someone joins themselves to another person in a sexual relationship. It is another valuable insight (Page 128).
- One of the four measures of *Make Disciples* is “I am personally accountable.” Sexual bondage is a battle you can’t fight by yourself. While it is an intensely private area, ask God to give you someone of the same sex who will pray for you, and will hopefully grow into someone who will ask you the tough questions—particularly in an area that is rampant in society and in the church.

Our verses next week are Ephesians 6:13-14.