



The Peril of Pornography

“It is not good for man to be alone,” God noted in the beginning. So he created woman—and the new world of friendship. The Devil took note of this development and was not pleased. It suited him fine for man to be alone. So the Tempter tricked the first friends into forgetfulness of God and fear of one another. They embarked on a path that leads to the ultimate loneliness of hell.

Advanced though our world may be, it has not left Original Sin behind. In our time Satan entices millions of Adam and Eve’s descendants down the dark path of pornography into ever-deepening loneliness and despair, as the true stories gathered by Matt Fradd in the short book *Delivered* make clear. Pornography, he says, turns men, who should be providers for others, into consumers who devote themselves and their resources to self-satisfaction. In an age of equality pornography degrades women, presenting them as bodies to be used rather than persons to be loved. And pornography “destroys marriages by competing with them, making a mockery of true marital intimacy.”

But men and women still turn from pornography to purity, and *Delivered* tells us how they do it.

The path to freedom opens when they step into honesty with themselves about the lock grip pornography has on their lives. The following questions provoke this saving self-confrontation.

- Do I have a preoccupation with pornography?
- Have I made repeated unsuccessful attempts to control or stop viewing pornography?
- Do I use pornography to reward myself for hard work or to escape problems or painful emotions?
- By my use of pornography am I risking the loss of a significant relationship, a job, or a career opportunity?
- Has my use of pornography led me to think I should talk to someone about the toll it’s taking on my life?

Once I honestly recognize the disempowering weakness within me, it will be necessary to purify my personal and social environments. Honesty demands that I completely rid myself of this demonic influence by cutting off my access to pornography and pornography’s access to me. This I can do in part by subscribing to an internet blocking/accountability service such as Covenant Eyes (www.covenanteyes.com), which monitors the sites that I visit and sends a report to my accountability partner. In the face of overwhelming temptation to view pornography, a click on the “panic button” disables internet access. The only way to restore it is to contact Covenant Eyes. The very name reminds us that we’re being watched over by the God who promises us his faithful love.

The Devil inspires pornographers far and wide because he knows it is not good for man to be alone. God made us for friendship, and we will find it if we bring our failures before him in humble, mercy-seeking prayer. For the only sin our God can’t forgive is the one we don’t ask him to.