

June 2012

## He Brought a Prostitute Home?

Over the past few years there have been innumerable women who have come to me with the heart-break of a husband who is involved in internet pornography. All of them expressed feelings of inadequacy as a wife, mother, lover—as a woman. They felt used and used up. Shedding tears of shame, they twisted their hands like slaves trapped by chains of confusion and indecision.

I have learned to ask, “How long has this been going on?” The answers are astounding—15 years, 20 years, 25 years. We are talking about men who are church leaders including pastors, elders, deacons, missionaries and other good Christian men.

My next question is always, “And why are you still there?”

Their answers are predictable.

**“I keep praying he will change. It just hasn’t happened, yet.”** The wife is frozen in fear regarding her husband’s behavior; caught in a double bind. Proverbs 9: 10 says, *“The fear of the **Lord** is the beginning of wisdom. (7) Whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse.”* Pornography always results in emotional, verbal or even physical abuse for the wife.

**“He doesn’t think he is doing anything wrong.”** *“You have heard that it is said, “You shall not commit adultery.” But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”* Matthew 5:27. The husband is living in deception and practicing idolatry.

**“He says it isn’t hurting anyone so why should it bother me.”** Ephesians 5:25 says, *“Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy...”* The wife is being dishonored.

**“He says he is the man of the house and I am supposed to submit.”** *“Now as the church submits to **Christ**, wives should submit to their husbands in everything.”* Ephesians 5:24. When a man turns away from the God-given roles of covering, protecting and spiritual leadership, the end result is spiritual abuse. Husbands are directed to follow the example of Christ.

**“I don’t believe in divorce.”** God says He separated Himself from Israel in Jeremiah 3:8. *“...for all of the harlotries of faithless Israel, I had sent her away and given her a writ of divorce...”*

Dan and I define internet pornography as a “drug of choice.” It involves the manipulation of internal hormones to sooth the pain of past hurts. It can make a

person feel better (initially) and relieve the ache of unresolved emotional and spiritual pain. Drugs, alcohol or seeking out a prostitute have been the downfall of many Christian men. But internet pornography is private and that makes it safe—or so spins the deceptive whisper. Yet in reality there is always collateral damage. Hosea 4:14 says, *“I will not punish your daughters when they turn to prostitution, nor your daughters-in-law when they commit adultery, because the men themselves consort with harlots and sacrifice with shrine prostitutes—a people without understanding will come to ruin!”*

Part of the issue is that wives are allowing the infidelity and adultery to remain in their homes because they are ashamed and/or afraid to reveal the truth. Ladies, you must stand up and look up! Your reticence is hurting you, your husband and your children.

As a wife it is your job/responsibility/honor to recognize that your husband is no longer behaving as a God-fearing, respectable man. He has to deal with the idolatry and sin before he can be the head of the household and the leader to whom you can joyfully submit. If he is not willing to get help then you must take a stand. You are a daughter of the king, a blessed child, His precious one—and He does not want you defiled or sullied by the presence of porn in your home or in the lives of your children.

“What would you do if your husband brought home a real-life prostitute? Perhaps you would find your voice, step past the shame and demand that he get rid of the garbage.

Take courage. Help is available.

Beginning in July we are offering an **intensive prayer ministry program** to assist those trapped in internet pornography. See the announcement below. Your husband **can** choose to take the first step toward healing by contacting us.

(We do understand that women can also be involved in internet pornography.)