

A photograph of a desert landscape featuring large sand dunes. The foreground is covered in sand with distinct, wavy ripples. A series of footprints leads from the bottom left towards the middle ground, following the curve of a dune. The sky is filled with clouds, illuminated by the warm light of a sunset or sunrise, with orange and yellow hues near the horizon and darker blues above. The word "Seven" is written in a white, cursive script across the upper left portion of the image.

Seven

WELL-WORN PATHS

Matt. 5

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matt. 5

²⁹ If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

Matt. 5

³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

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Sx: What are the symptoms?

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- Fallen Christian Leaders













VIEWS | EDITORIAL

Trump Should Be Removed from Office

It's time to say what we said 20 years ago when a president's character was revealed for what it was.

MARK GALLI | DECEMBER 19, 2019



Former Christianity Today editor Mark Galli accused of sexual harassment

Two new reports say the famed evangelical magazine failed to hold senior leaders accountable for sexual harassment and made women employees feel unappreciated and unsafe.



Hillsong Church Admits Founding Pastor Brian Houston Displayed Inappropriate Behavior With Two Women

BY RELEVANT
MARCH 18, 2022



Aquinas

“to pry and dwell on our neighbor’s faults
in order to despise him . . . is vicious.”

Secunda Secundae, Q 187. A.2

Sx: What are the symptoms?

- Fallen Christian Leaders
- Tragedy of the explosion of porn

The Problem

- At the beginning of the internet, before Smartphones.
- a 2004 study from an internet traffic management company saw porn sites grow by 1,800% between 1998 and 2004.
- At the time, Nielsen/Net ratings estimated that about 34 million people visited adult websites every month.

The Problem

- In 2016, one of the world's largest adult sites with explicit video streaming, reported that it averaged 2.4 million visitors per hour.

The Problem

- **Today, every SECOND**
 - . 28,258 users are watching it on the internet.
 - . \$3,075.64 is being spent on it on the internet.
 - . 372 people are typing the word "adult" into a search engine.

The Problem

- **Today, every DAY:**
 - . 37 pornographic videos are created in the United States.
 - . 2.5 billion emails containing porn are sent or received.
 - . 116,000 queries related to pornography involving children are received.

The Problem

- **Today**
- About 200,000 Americans are classified as “porn addicts.”
- . 35% of all internet downloads are related to pornography.
- . One-third of porn viewers are women.

The Problem

- A recent Barna research study found most pastors (57%) and youth pastors (64%) admit they have struggled with porn, either currently or in the past.
 - *Psychology Today* Jan. 30, 2020

Sx: What are the symptoms?

- Fallen Christian Leaders
- Tragedy of the explosion of porn
- The plague of human trafficking

Sx: What are the symptoms?

- Fallen Christian Leaders
- Tragedy of the explosion of porn
- The plague of human trafficking
- Blinded heart and mind

Dx

- Lust

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- Lust
 - What lust isn't

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 - The desire to experience love through physical intimacy is God-designed and given.

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 - What lust isn't
 - Lust is not sexual desire.
 - The desire to experience love through physical intimacy is God-designed and given.
 - Sexual desire is like nitroglycerin

Dx

- Lust
 - What lust isn't
 - A Vice

Dx

- Lust
 - What lust isn't
 - Vice
 - “A vice takes our attachments to good things and turns them to excess, distorting both us and the objects of our desire.”
 - Rebecca Konyndyk DeYoung, *Glittering Vices*, 199.

Dx

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- Lust is a disordered desire (love) for intimacy where we are attempting to satisfy our deepest longings with physical pleasure.
- In the process we tend to objectify the other.
- It will always fail to bring ultimate satisfaction because lust can only imitate acts of intimacy.

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Dx

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- It interferes with us experiencing and communicating love.
- Confuses pleasure with fulfillment.
- Makes us less sensitive to normal every day pleasures.

We are most susceptible to lust “when we are most starved for love. As human beings, we can’t live or thrive without love. We will go to desperate lengths to have it, or to escape from the pain of not having it.”

Rebecca Konyndyk DeYoung, *Glittering Vices*,
211.

Rx and Tx

- Pray and Repent
 - Let us not kid ourselves into thinking that we are immune.

Rx and Tx

- Pray and Repent
 - Let us not kid ourselves into thinking that we are immune.
 - Let us take stock of the ways our eyes have blinded

Rx and Tx

- Pray and Repent
- Believe that freedom is possible

1 Cor. 6

Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men

I Cor. 6

¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

I Cor. 6

¹¹ ***And that is what some of you were.*** But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

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Rx and Tx

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- We need God
 - This is not about trying harder.
 - Purity of Heart cannot be achieved by our efforts. It is a work of Christ in our lives that we must receive and participate with.

Rx and Tx

- We need God
 - Kierkegaard purity of heart is to will one will.
 - To want one thing.
- At some level, all sins are a result of the lack of a pure heart.

Rx and Tx

- Pray and Repent
- Believe that freedom is possible
- Not much hope to fix this on our own.
 - We need God.
 - We need each other.

Rx and Tx (for me)

- Pray for me
- If you ever have concerns about my behavior, you OWE it to me, my wife, my children, and this ministry to talk to me about it and to consult Leadership Council (our elders) about it.

Rx and Tx

- Pray and Repent
- Believe that freedom is possible
- Not much hope to fix this on our own.
 - We need God.
 - We need each other.
 - We need to settle how serious we are.

Rx and Tx

- How serious are we?

Rx and Tx

- How serious are we?
- What might it mean for you to gouge out your eye or cut off your hand?

Rx and Tx

- How serious are we?
 - Throw out computer.
 - Get a dumb phone
 - Get accountability software
 - Get accountability partners and be brutally honest with them.

“Blessed are the pure in heart
for they shall see God.”

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