

Sexuality, Worldview & the Philosophical Roots of Pornography

Rev. Dr. Joe Boot



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Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable— if there is any moral excellence and if there is any praise—dwell on these things. Do what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:8-9



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What is Pornography?



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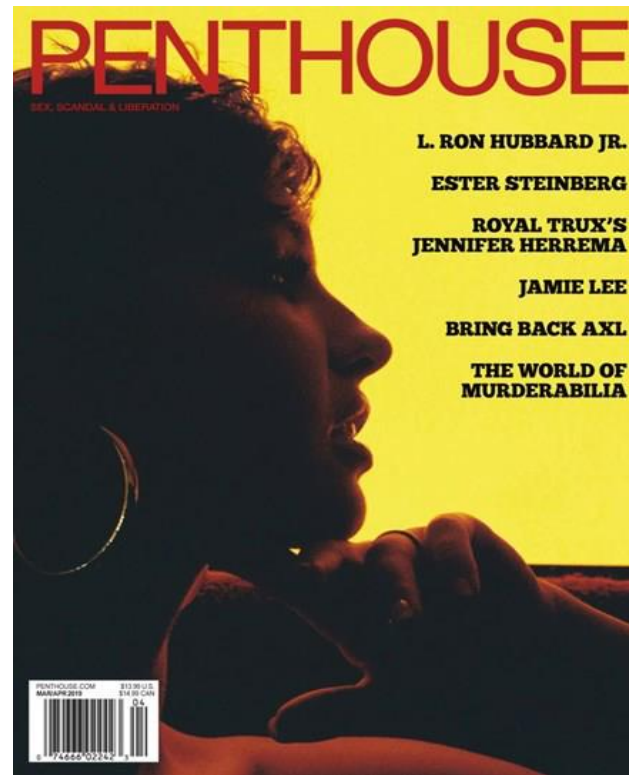
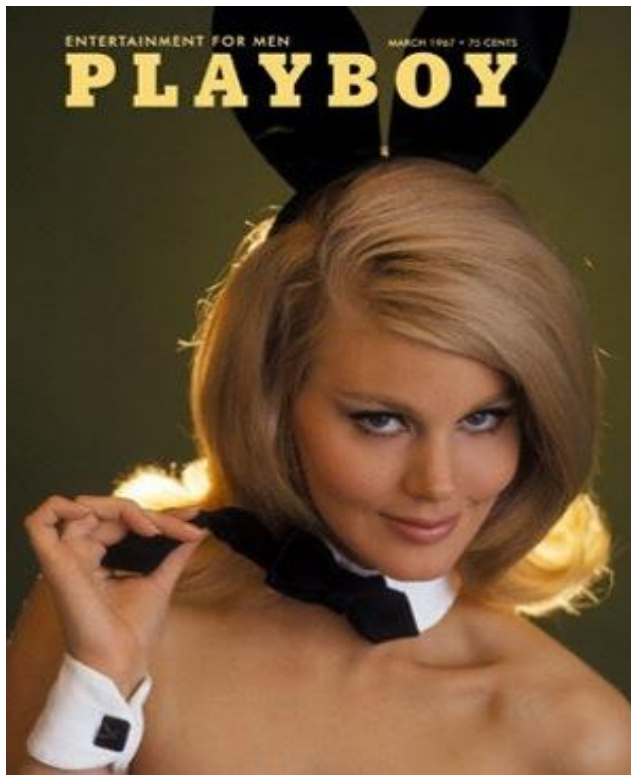
What is Pornography?

- Derived from the Greek *pornos graphos*, meaning writing about prostitutes.
- In the New Testament Greek *porneia* means sexual immorality associated with whoredom.



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What is Pornography?



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The Statistical Realities

- 40 million regular users of online pornography in America alone, consuming 1 in 5 of all rentals/pay per view.
- Four billion dollars a year is spent on *video pornography* in the USA: more than on the major sports



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Dr. Jeffrey Satinover



With the advent of the computer, the delivery system for this addictive stimulus [internet pornography] has become nearly resistance free. It is as though we have devised a form of heroin 100 times more powerful than before, usable in the privacy of one's own home and injected directly into the brain through the eyes. It's now available in unlimited supply via a self-replicating distribution network, glorified as art and protected by the constitution.



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The Statistical Realities

- Every second there are nearly 30,000 internet users viewing pornography and there are approximately 116,000 online searches for child pornography every day.



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The Statistical Realities

- One new porn video is produced every 39 minutes in the USA alone.
- American children begin *hardcore porn* consumption on average at 11 years old
- 4 out of 5 sixteen-year-olds regularly access pornography
- The pornography industry is around a \$97 billion business annually worldwide.
- A 2014 study found that 76% of British men watch internet pornography as do 36% of British women



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The Statistical Realities

A **Barna Group** study in 2014 found that approximately 2/3 of self-professed Christian men watch porn monthly (about the same as secular men).

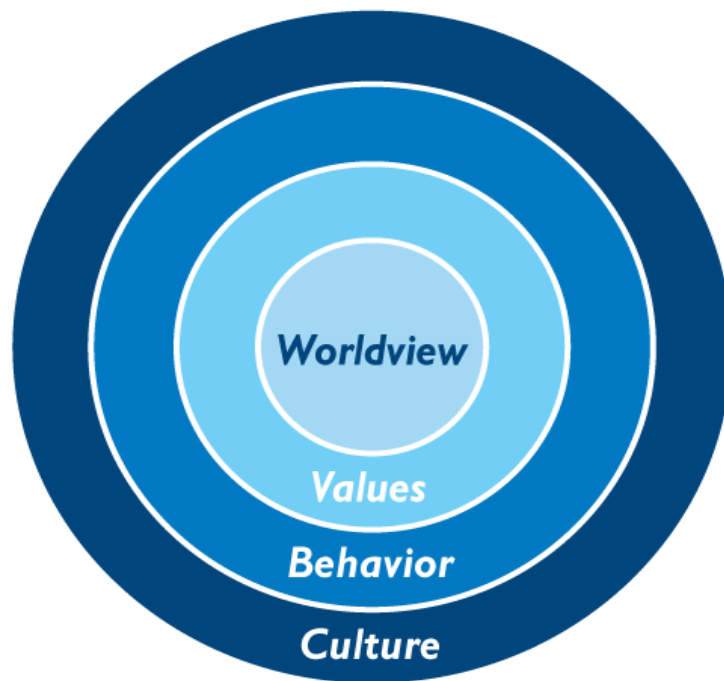
About 15% of Christian women watch it monthly (about half the rate of their secular counterparts).



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The Scriptural Foundations of True Sexuality

Our *worldview* will determine our view of human sexuality and pornography.



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The Scriptural Foundations of True Sexuality

Sexuality and sex are a wonderful and sacred gift.



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He who made them from the beginning, made them male and female, and said, 'for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one flesh. So, they are no longer two but one flesh.

Matthew 19:4-6



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Let marriage be held in honour among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.



Hebrews 13:4



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The Scriptural Foundations of True Sexuality

In scripture our *sexuality* and the distinction of the sexes is an important aspect of the image of God – as is fidelity in the marriage relationship.



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The Scriptural Foundations of True Sexuality



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The Socio-Cultural Challenge

- Pornography has become the **seventh** largest industry in North America.
- The average age of exposure to pornography is between **nine and eleven** years of age.



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The Socio-Cultural Challenge



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The Socio-Cultural Challenge

Juvenile sex offenders and sex crimes in general have strong links to heavy hardcore porn use.



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The Socio-Cultural Challenge

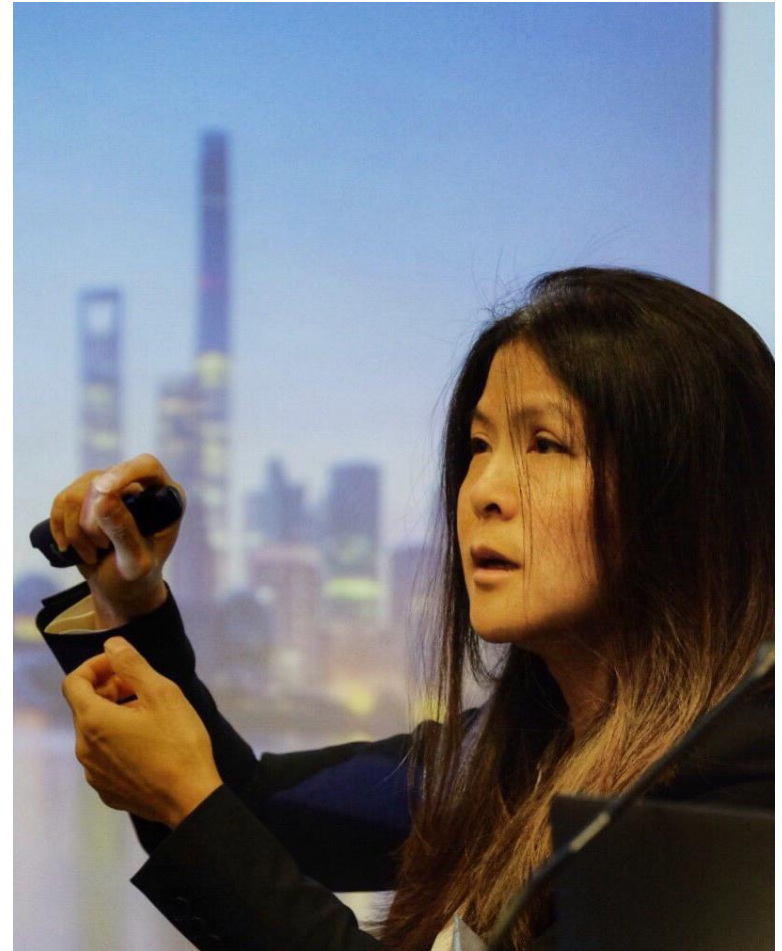
Addiction to pornography works like a drug remapping the brain.



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Dr. Valerie Voon

Studied the phenomena of changes in the brain of heavy users exposed to hardcore pornography and concluded that the brains showed clear and distinct parallels to those with substance addictions.



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Change of Attitudes to Pornography

Women being portrayed as objects to be used and abused by men has been remarkably tolerated.

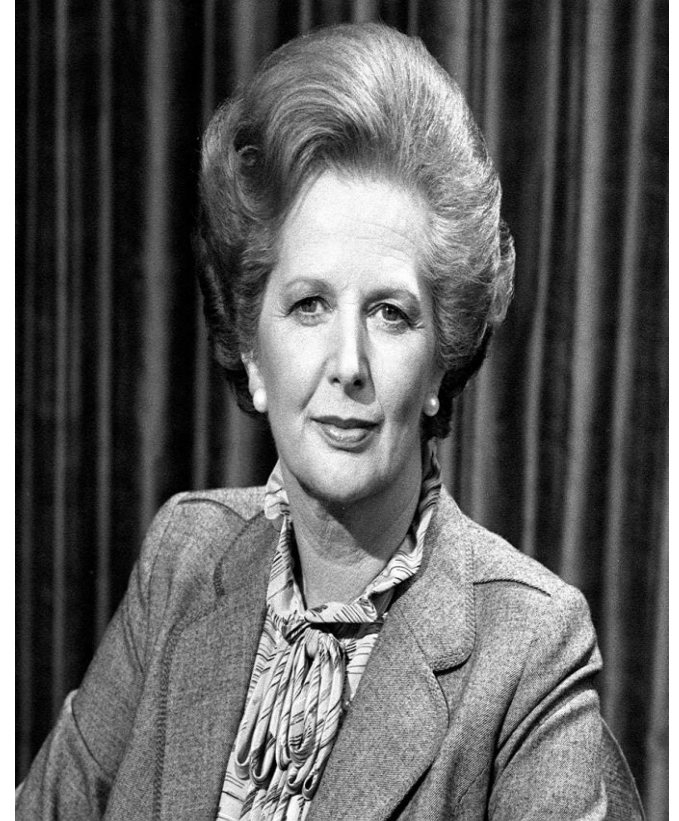


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Change of Attitudes to Pornography

The exaltation of violent and explicit sex increasingly coarsens the content of films and books and – eventually and inevitably – life itself. This is not progress. It is not liberation. It is decadence. We conservatives are not, most of us, saints: But even as sinners we have a duty to fight – as whole-heartedly as our enemies promote – the attack on the family that threatens the West at its foundations.

– Margaret Thatcher



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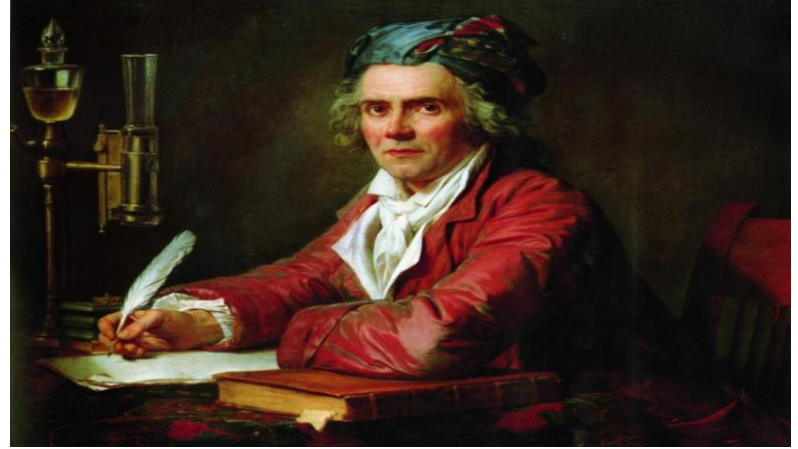
The Religious Roots of Pornography

A pornographic culture is the *logical development* of a specific worldview that shapes people's understanding of their place in the world.



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The Religious Roots of Pornography



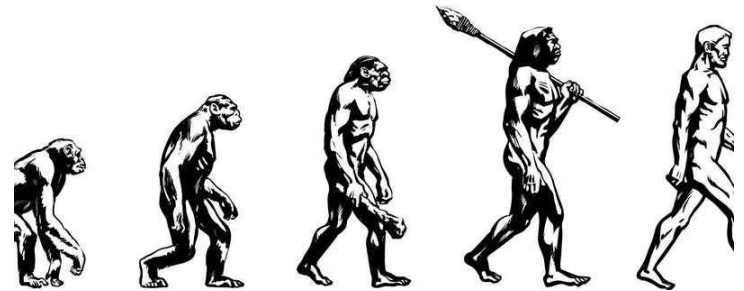
Marquis de Sade (1740-1814)

- Sought the promotion of sexual gratification by inflicting pain and debasing others
- Wanted the legalization of rape and murder and the criminalization of Christianity.
- Denying God, he denied Sin and the Fall of man in rebellion against God



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The Religious Roots of Pornography



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The Religious Roots of Pornography

In the rituals of fertility cults, chaos is the source of power and regeneration – since all things evolved from the primal chaos.



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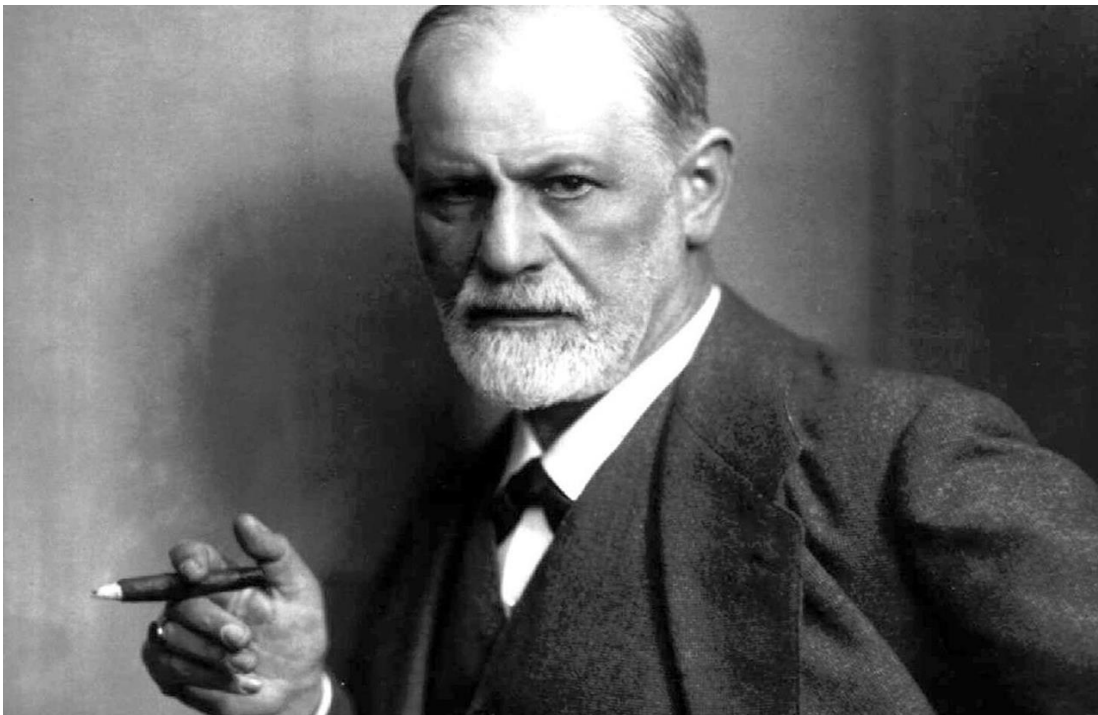
As Rome deteriorated the circus became increasingly dominant and was closely related to the fertility cult.



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The Religious Roots of Pornography

Sigmund Freud's *id* and *ego* and unconscious *libido*



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Freedom, Personhood and Love

- *You will know the truth and the truth shall make you free* (John 8:32)
- *It is for freedom, that Christ has set us free* (Galatians 5:1)



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Freedom, Personhood and Love

In the gospel of Jesus Christ we are fully re-established as persons and image-bearers and affirmed in our God-given sexuality.

Pornography is the *deformation* of sexual intimacy; marital love is its *reformation* and *restoration*.



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