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## **What can Christians do about...**

- ...the sexualization of our culture and its impacts?
- ...the impacts of pornography?
- ...child sex trafficking?

Are we called to just live in this culture and do our best to keep ourselves pure? No. We're called to make a difference. Find out how in the pages that follow.

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## The Church's Role

This resource is intended for senior pastors, youth pastors, men's, women's, or small group ministry leaders. As a community of Christians, we must see the sexualization of our culture as a opportunity to advance the Kingdom - to advance God's values. We have a calling, a responsibility, and a huge role to play:

1. **PRAY.** This is Satan's sandbox. We simply must pray for the protection of our children, youth, men, and women; for the men, women, and children involved in the sex industry; and for God's power as we engage in this battle. This begins and ends with prayer.
2. **UNDERSTAND.** This is a bigger issue than a marriage here-and-there. Take a difficult look at the reality of the current situation and the devastating consequences. A very brief summary of the issues is included in this toolkit along with a list of resources that will tell you *more* than you'd like to know.
3. **RESOLVE.** Make a conscious choice to avoid contributing to the problem personally, and help your friends, family, and congregation do the same. Only as a community of Christians can we will begin to address the fuel for the problem -- demand -- and make sure our own children are protected.
4. **ENGAGE.** In answer to God's call on our lives to help the oppressed and vulnerable, there are also many ways we can engage and protect our wider communities and advocate for victims.

*Note: the "p.u.r.e." acronym is being used with permission from p.u.r.e.Hope.*

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## PRAY

LORD, your word is clear about your desire for us to **avoid sexual immorality**. As you wrote in the letters to the seven churches recorded in Revelation, the church must **WAKE UP** and **REPENT**. Please open our eyes.

Sexual purity is a perfect example of You clearly knowing what's best for us even when it may not immediately feel like it. There are so many consequences of impure sexual behavior that we don't even consider. **Thank You for Your guidance**. Now, please give us the **wisdom and power** to help our neighbors see the truth.

Father, the **children and teens** are even less aware of the consequences, and many of the adults around them have not done a good job of protecting them. Please show us what steps to take to **protect them** from further damage, and please **heal their spirits** from the exposure they've already had.

LORD, we don't want Satan to have victory in any more families. Please **help us not to be luke warm** on this issue for the sake of the marriages, children, and families in our communities.

**Break our hearts for the things that break yours**. Help us to remember that the people in the pictures and on the screen are actual people. Souls. Your created and loved children. Help us to realize that the glamour and pleasure is a lie; that their reality is abuse, drug addiction, worthlessness, and hopelessness.

Give us the **strength to step into the darkest corners** to find the children that are lured into the sex industry and to do what it takes to see them rescued and restored.

Apart from You, this fight is lost. The combined forces of the internet and organized crime are overwhelming. **Only by Your power and the unity of Your church will victory be ours**.

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## UNDERSTAND

**Our society is saturated with sex.** It sells beer, Cheetos, clothing, cars, and just about everything else. Our TV shows, movies, music, and bookshelves are full of it. The average teen receives an estimated 14,000 sexualized messages each year from commercials, internet, TV shows, music, movies, etc.<sup>1</sup>

The impacts are devastating:

- The culture of our youth is alarming: “Friends with Benefits,” colored bracelets signifying what and how many sex acts she will perform; pregnancy pacts.
- Teen pregnancies, abortions, and STD’s are a consistent problem.
- 35% of boys aged 13-14 report viewing Internet porn “Too many times to count,”<sup>2</sup> and the girls aren’t far behind. 70% of American men aged 18-34<sup>3</sup> - 50% of all *Christian* men<sup>4</sup> and up to 40% of pastors<sup>5</sup> - view pornography regularly. And 1 of 6 women struggles with porn addiction.<sup>6</sup>
- Marriages – and future marriages - are being destroyed by porn.<sup>71</sup>
- Thousands of women are lured into porn, strip clubs, and prostitution by the promise of a brighter future and trapped there by drug addiction, threats, and feelings of worthlessness and hopelessness.
- And perhaps the most disgusting and shocking impact of all? Somewhere between 100,000 and 300,000 youths are sexually exploited for profit within the US every year.<sup>20</sup>
  - Some are forced into being photographed or filmed for pornography.
  - Others are forced into prostitution (and sold over and over to men who are likely porn consumers).
  - Some have run away from abusive homes – even foster care situations.
  - Others are lured from school by a “recruiter.”

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## RESOLVE

Consider trying one or more of the following ways to disciple your congregation around this area which will decrease demand for pornography and prostitution and protect your own families:

- 1. Do everything you can to make sure every household in your church has internet and smart phone filters (e.g. [www.covenanteyes.com](http://www.covenanteyes.com)).**
- 2. Integrate any or all of the following topics into your normal youth, men's, women's, small group, and/or Sunday morning teaching:**
  - Respect for self & others
  - Our responsibility to care for orphans
  - God's heart for pure thoughts & actions
  - God's heart for justice (see <http://purehope.net/images/purejustice/pureJUSTICE Bible Study.pdf>)
  - Importance of community & accountability
  - Cultural dangers & boundaries (t.v., internet, social networking, smart phones, sexting, video games, music, etc.)
  - What the Bible says about sex
- 3. Bring in any of the following local organizations to do a special workshop, seminar, or conference or encourage your congregation to attend one at another church nearby:**
  - Raising Kids in a XXX Culture ([rhettsmith.com](http://rhettsmith.com))
  - Men of Valor Conference ([purehope.net](http://purehope.net))
  - Human Trafficking Overview ([traffick911.com](http://traffick911.com))
  - Traps & Tricks of Traffickers ([purehope.net](http://purehope.net))
- 4. Host a special awareness event:**
  - A concert
  - An art exhibit
  - A "Freeze Project" (see [www.threfreezeproject.com](http://www.threfreezeproject.com))
  - A poetry contest
  - A "Pancakes and Porn" Breakfast (XXX Church)
  - Christmas card sale (Called to Defend on Facebook)
  - Showing of "The Playground" (discretion advised)
  - Showing of "Stop the Candy Shop"

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## **ENGAGE**

Consider trying one or more of the following ways to engage surrounding communities around this area which will decrease demand further and protect their families.

- 1. Invite the surrounding community to any teaching and/or events you are doing on this topic for your church.**
- 2. Incorporate this teaching and/or these events into your community outreach:** mentoring relationships, church-school partnerships, apartment ministry, food pantries, homeless ministry, etc. If you're not already involved in your community in these ways, go to [www.unitethechurch.org](http://www.unitethechurch.org) to engage with a network of churches working together to become more externally focused.
- 3. Encourage your congregation to volunteer with organizations engaged in this fight.** Go to [www.unitethechurch.org](http://www.unitethechurch.org) for opportunities.
- 4. Help get the word out to others** by engaging in conversation with friends in the workplace, the PTA, moms' groups, at your high school, etc. and encourage your congregation to do the same.

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## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Committee on Public Education, 2001:192.

<sup>2</sup> Courtney B. Davis Olds, "Pornography is Everybody's Problem," *Prism Magazine*, September/October 2008, p. 13.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *id.*

<sup>5</sup> Mark Laaser, *Healing the Wounds of Sexual Addiction* (Zondervan, 2004), p. 15.

<sup>6</sup> Michael Leahy, *Porn @ Work* (Northfield, 2009), p. 159.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at pp. 121-130, p. 159.

<sup>8</sup> Smith, Healy Vardaman, Snow, *The National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking*, p. 4. See also a 2001 University of Pennsylvania study referenced by the Department of Justice at <http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/ceos/trafficking.html>.

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## Local Organizations

***New Friends New Life***

[www.newfriendsnewlife.org](http://www.newfriendsnewlife.org)

A faith-based organization located in the Dallas-Fort Worth area that enables women to leave the degradation of the sex industry.

***p.u.r.e.Hope***

[www.purehope.net](http://www.purehope.net)

Providing Christian solutions in a sexualized culture. Many materials for parents, men, and others are available including a 6-week Bible study.

***Traffick911***

[www.traffick911.com](http://www.traffick911.com)

Mission: to end human trafficking of children in the Dallas/Fort Worth metro area through prevention, rescue and restoration.

***TraffickStop***

[www.traffickstop.org](http://www.traffickstop.org)

Baptist General Convention of Texas' Community Care Department against human trafficking.

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## **Other Organizations**

Free the Slaves ***[www.freetheslaves.net](http://www.freetheslaves.net)***

International Justice Mission ***[www.ijm.org](http://www.ijm.org)***

Love146 ***[www.love146.org](http://www.love146.org)***

Polaris Project ***[www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org)***

Renewal Forum ***[www.renewalforum.org](http://www.renewalforum.org)***

The Salvation Army ***[www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org)***

Shared Hope International ***[www.sharedhope.org](http://www.sharedhope.org)***

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops ***[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)***

U.S. Department of State ***[www.state.gov/g/tip](http://www.state.gov/g/tip)***

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ***[www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking)***

World Hope International ***[www.worldhope.org](http://www.worldhope.org)***

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## **Books & Other Publications**

*Exploited, [www.pureHope.net](http://www.pureHope.net)*

*Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy, Kevin Bales (University of California Press, 1999)*

*The Slave Next Door: Human Trafficking and Slavery in America Today, Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter (University of California Press, 2009)*

*Not For Sale: The Return of the Global Slave Trade—And How We Can Fight It, David Batstone, (Harper, 2007)*

*Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy, Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie Russell Hochschild (Henry Holt, 2002)*

*Good News About Injustice: A Witness of Courage in a Hurting World, Gary Haugen (InterVarsity Press, 1999)*

*Terrify No More: Young Girls Held Captive and the Daring Undercover Operation to Win Their Freedom, Gary Haugen and Gregg Hunter (Thomas Nelson, 2005)*

*The Natashas: Inside the New Global Sex Trade, Victor Malarek (Arcade, 2003)*

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# **National Human Trafficking Hotline**

## **888-373-7888**

On its own, one of these signs might not indicate trafficking, but 2-3 together are a good indication. The average life expectancy for a child forced into sexual slavery is 7 years, so don't wait.

- Scripted answers.
- Inconsistencies in story.
- Branding or tattoos, especially that reflect ownership or money.
- Bruising, including handprints or thin marks like an extension cord or wire. Varied stages of healing with black, purple, blue, and/or yellow shades.
- Malnourished.
- Coming on to several men.
- Appears helpless, shamed, or nervous.
- Inability or fear to make eye contact.
- Dating much older, abusive, or controlling man.
- Clothes that say "Daddy's girl" or are inappropriate for the weather.
- Not attending school or has numerous school absences.
- Chronic runaway or homeless youth.