**How to overcome the secret sin of pornography (***or any secret sin***)**

James 5:16

No longer does a man or young man need to go into some trashy adult bookstore to view x-rated materials, the so-called adult entertainment industry now pumps the stuff right into our homes.

**This morning I want to talk about the dangers of and freedom from pornography.**

Uncomfortable topic

\*\*\*I tried to put it off until next week but didn’t know how well it would be received on Senior Adult Sunday!

We laugh but this epidemic is a chronic problem among senior adults as well.

It is impossible to fully equip men or teenage young men without addressing this subject.

**The most enslaving aspect of the sin of pornography is secrecy.**

That is why the Lord wanted me to bring it out into the open this morning.

**90% of born-again Christians have said that they have problems in relating to God or to other people because of shame and guilt over pornography**.

You may not have a problem with pornography – but other secret sins? shopping; debt spending; overeating

**So, how to overcome a secret sin:**

**Confess to another person**

**(James 5:16) Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed.**

**SO LET ME CLEAR UP YOUR RATIONALIZATION**

1) **Sexual lust is a sin** - the Pharisees thought that as long as they didn’t commit adultery, they could think about it all they wanted to

- Jesus said in **Matthew 5:27-30 - “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.**

2) **Sexual lust is not an essential part of being a man** – ‘boys will be boys”.

-Often hunting lodges or repair shops are full of pornographic pictures ***as if lust equals masculinity***.

Today because of the explosive exposure to the homosexual lifestyle, some men feel the need to prove to others or themselves that they are not gay

3) **There is no acceptable amount of sexual lust.**

**Receive His forgiveness**

**(1 John 1:9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Do you realize what unconfessed sin does?

1) **Causes God to judge our sin**

**1 Corinthians 11:27-32 - Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself… if he does not judge the body rightly. For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.**

This is hard to swallow but I’m telling you the TRUTH – He will judge us and bring discipline and **even hardship** into our lives.

**2) Creates crippling guilt**

**2 Peter 1:9 - For he who lacks these qualities (self-control, love, endurance, etc) is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.**

Guilt has a role (an assignment from God) – like nerve endings in the body – guilt signifies there is something wrong

 **Flee temptation, fill up with God**

**(2 Timothy 2:22) Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.**

 **Walk in His power**

**(Galatians 5:16) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.**