

**SLAYING
THE LUST
DRAGON**

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Ridgeway Publishing
Medina, New York

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Ridgeway Publishing
3161 Fruit Ave.
Medina, NY 14103
ph: (888) 822-7894
fax: (585) 798-9016

ISBN# 978-099066553-3

Printed in the United States of America

A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

We found Todd Friel’s sermon on killing pornography to be inspiring and motivating. After being approached by others to transcribe and publish this work into book form, we consented and we trust you will be blessed.

Because this was a preached message, you will notice the content reads a bit differently from an intentional writing. We tried to edit lightly for clarity and readability but still maintain the preached style.

We want to extend gratitude to Burning Bush Communications for extending kind permission and co-operation in this project. May God receive all the glory and we pray many souls can be delivered from this snare of the devil—the curse of pornography.

PRELUDE

There is no denying that the feminist movement has been wildly successful at softening most men in our metro-sexualized society. That claim can be substantiated with just two words: One Direction.

Even Christian men are not exempt from the pressure to use moisturizer and eye cream. Unfortunately, the evangelical response to the feminization of America hasn't been anything to cheer about.

Rather than running to the Bible for guidance, ministries dedicated to getting men to man up encourage grown men to shoot wild animals, climb mountains, and go whitewater rafting. These are perfectly fine activities, but they are hardly the stuff

that constitutes Biblical manhood.

What does the Bible say makes for a Godly man? There are many things, but for this discussion, we are going to define Biblical manhood as the ability to master our own passions so we can be the best husband, the best father, and the best follower of Jesus Christ possible.

True manliness is doing the hard lifting of examining yourself to see where you might have some flaws, some foibles, and some faults, so that they can be corrected and you can be a better Christian, husband and daddy. Now those are manly things. By reading this book that's exactly what you're endeavoring to do.

Way to go, Sir. You are a man who is striving to please your God and endeavoring to be a better follower of the Lord Jesus.

I do not present this from a lofty position. Lust is every man's battle. It is an issue that every man needs to mortify and I applaud you for your willingness to do some heavy lifting.

A HIGHER CALLING

There are two titles for this message. The first title is: “A Higher Calling.” The second title is called: “The Most Uncomfortable 40 Minutes of Your Life.” The title you prefer will depend on how you respond to a sermon focusing on the scourge of the modern church: Internet pornography.

You may be thinking that doesn’t seem like an appropriate topic to discuss in church. If that is true I would like to submit to you then, the Bible is inappropriate because the Bible does indeed address sex and marriage and intimate relationships. If you have read the Song of Solomon, you know it does so in a rather unapologetic fashion.

Furthermore, sex is good. It is God’s intention and plan for many great reasons and to talk about sexual

issues as if it's a shameful thing really is to say, "Your intention and plan isn't very good, God."

The fact that you and I tend to blush when the subject of sex is raised is more of a testimony to our corrupt nature than it is to the issue itself.

Can you imagine if I brought up the subject of waxed beans; nobody would walk out of church saying, "That is so inappropriate." Sex, in and of itself, is no more sinful than waxed beans.

Why then do we blush when the subject of sex is addressed? Because we have so corrupted it that we tend to think that sex is dirty in any context.

Sex is not dirty; it is what we do to it that makes it dirty. Paul does not hesitate to admonish us for mishandling God's good gift. And we should not plug our ears because our hearing is tainted by our own presuppositions about intimacy.

Finally, to not address this awkward topic would be a disservice to the millions of men and women who are affected by the issue of pornography. Not only does this sin affect us temporarily, it can also affect us eternally.

1 Corinthians 6 tells us that there is no sin that's so affects the body as sexual immorality. 1 Corinthians 6 also says all fornicators; all adulterers will have their part in a lake of fire. That alone should motivate us to push pass the awkwardness and tackle an issue that

has eternal consequences.

1 Timothy 1:10 says that fornicators will have their part in a lake of fire. James 1: 15 says that sin, when it comes to its fullest form, leads to death. This is not a peripheral issue, this is not a spiritual discipline, this is a matter of life and death and if you do not kill pornography in your life, it will kill you. Count on it.

A BIG PROBLEM

How pervasive is the sin of pornography? Brace yourself for these statistics.

“Focus on The Family” invited pastors to confess, “Have you, within the last month, intentionally gone to a pornographic site to view pornography?” Over 30% said “Yes.” Those are the shepherds. What are the sheep doing?

According to Pure Life Ministries, 68% of evangelical men admit to viewing pornography on a regular basis. Pure Life Ministries discovered that 50% of pastors regularly view porn.

This is a huge, huge problem. Pornography is the seventh largest industry in our country. We must address it, as uncomfortable as it might be.