

What's Wrong with a Little Porn When You're Married?

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Tom was distant and frequently irritable, spending most of his evenings on the computer. “I have so much work to do,” he kept saying. Jenny couldn’t put her finger on what was troubling her about their marriage until the day she discovered pornographic websites on his laptop. She forced herself to look at some of the images, but after viewing a few, she had the answer to her questions about what was wrong in their relationship. Tom was more interested in porn than in her.

Pete was dumbfounded. He kept reading the note from Melanie over and over, but it made little sense. She said she had found someone else, and she was leaving to move in with the other guy, hundreds of miles away. She said she needed to be loved, something she wasn’t getting from Pete. Her new relationship had started in a chat room and had secretly grown until it meant everything to her. Pete never knew what hit him. He hadn’t had a clue until he read the note and found Melanie gone.

Marriages fail for many reasons. But in the last decade, a new and disturbing trend has emerged. A growing reason for marital dissatisfaction that leads to divorce is the use of pornography by one of the spouses. Pornography might involve images, videos, chat rooms, webcam connections, and more. But they

all have one thing in common: they entice a husband or a wife, weary and perhaps disillusioned from years of work and routine, into a fantasy life that eventually becomes all-consuming. Over time, they are willing to throw away what is real in their lives for the fantasy and illusion of sexually addictive behavior.

The growth of the Internet, with the freedom to view sexually explicit material in private, has altered the landscape of sexual morality and marriage itself. While sexual sin has almost always been a deal-breaker in marriages, the Internet has brought it right through the front door of the home, where it hides in secret, chipping away at the foundation of the marriage until it wreaks devastation.

What happens to a marriage when pornography invades the home? What is its relational and sexual impact on the couple? While our culture increasingly dismisses any talk about the negative impact of porn, the reality is that it's much more corrosive and damaging than you think. Long before your marriage descends into the chaos of exposure and threats of divorce, you need to know the damage that porn can inflict on relationships. It's never too late to change direction if you know or suspect that porn is disrupting your marriage. One way to start on the road to transformation is to honestly examine the damage

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