

## IV

### AND THE BEAT GOES ON (AND ON AND ON)

#### The Media March

Following on from the acceptance of the Kinsey reports worldwide, and changes to law and education (medicine, law, university and school levels), the Kinsey reports themselves were exposed as examples of how NOT to conduct research, but their effect and 'new basis of morality', and new statistical basis has stood.

That which is  
common

becomes that  
which is  
considered  
normal

which becomes  
expected

which is  
eventually  
considered  
healthy

In 1987 The Harris Poll (page 11) showed teen pregnancy and abortion rise in direct correspondence to the amount of money providing sex education.

These days, that same finding would be impossible to identify due to the lessening of media standards and saturation of sexualized content that has overtaken all else.

- In a certain presidential era of the 1990's the US pornography laws were loosened. In 1995 the pornography industry boomed and in 1996 there was a dramatic increase in date rape. Audrey Werner "Observations of a Decade Working in an STD Clinic"
- Adolescents who watch large amounts of television containing sexual content are twice as likely to begin engaging in sexual intercourse in the following year as their peers who watch little such TV. Television in which characters talk about sex affects teens just as much as television that actually shows sexual activity. Rand Group

**Without doubt, what we see affects how we think, what we desire and how we behave. This is the entire rationale for the existence of advertising!**

#### ANALOGY 1

Remember when you were small... long hot summer days and trips to the beach? Dropping the towels on the scorching sand and racing into the water? Body surfing, splashing, getting dumped and dunked (if you had a big brother), laughing, shouting, floating... time passing...

Someone is calling your name... it's your Dad... he sounds far away... you look up at the beach where you left your things... he's not there! Where is he? Why has he moved? Where has he gone? In a few seconds of searching the beach you finally find him and realise it is not he that shifted – but you! So engrossed in the enjoyment of the moment you'd not noticed the shift as you drifted along the beach with the waves.

Values and standards are affected very much the same way. When we don't keep watch for the reference point (the waiting parent/God's words on an issue) we don't notice the shift. It takes deliberate thought to remember to keep sight of the reference point by which we measure where we are.

#### ANALOGY 2

What if you're driving home one day and decide to pop down to the beach for a dip. You know a great spot. No people, no noise no litter no towel. Through the dunes and into the water. Half a peaceful hour later – which track? Which dunes? The car is out of sight. No reference point. No distinguishing markers. Which way to go?

#### ANALOGY 3

When you first start learning the guitar, pressing the strings over the neck can be very painful but it doesn't take long for callouses to build and the pain to lessen.

Once again values and standards are similar - in that what causes our conscience difficulty will not continue to do so when we persevere in our ways. Our sensitivity becomes calloused over time. The reverse is also true – that tenderness returns when we stop the activity that calluses us.

#### CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION

**So who rates our entertainment?**

Films, videos and DVDs are classified by the Classification Board which is part of the [Commonwealth Office of Film and Literature Classification \(OFLC\)](#). The Board members are employed for the purpose and are broadly representative of the Australian community.

There are six classifications for films and videos:

- General (G)
- Parental Guidance (PG)
- Mature (M15+)
- Mature Accompanied (MA15+)
- Restricted (R18+)
- Restricted (X18+) Contains consensual sexually explicit activity
- Refused classification (RC)

Films are rated according to impact in six key areas – themes, violence, sex, language, drug use and nudity. In a world increasingly difficult to shock, the impact level must be questioned. “Impact” is largely dependent on degree of desensitisation. Desensitisation of the audience and surely of a Ratings Board. If your job was to sit in a room for 8 hours a day watching all manner of video content would you not become desensitised?

The main difference between the M and MA 15+ categories is the step up from *moderate* to *strong* impact, and that the first three categories are “Advisory” where the remaining three/four are legally enforceable.

According to the CTI Code of Practice the following is suitable for children...

Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice July 2004

**G (all ages of children/adults)**

2.2 **Sex and nudity:** Visual depiction of, and verbal references to, sexual behaviour must be brief, infrequent, contain little or no detail and be strictly limited to the story line or program context. Restrained, brief and infrequent visual depiction of nudity only when absolutely necessary to the story line or program context.

When did nudity become absolutely necessary to a story line or program context?

**PG (over 12)**

3.2 **Sex and nudity:** Visual depiction of and verbal reference to sexual behaviour must be restrained, mild in impact and justified by the story line or program context. Restrained visual depiction of nudity is permitted, but only where justified by the story line or program context.

**M (over 15)**

4.2 **Sex and nudity:** Visual depiction of intimate sexual behaviour may only be implied or simulated in a restrained way. It must be justified by the story line or program context. Verbal references to sexual activity should not be detailed. Visual depiction of nudity must be justified by the story line or program context, and must not be detailed if in a sexual context.

**MA 15+ (over 15)**

5.2 **Sex and nudity:** Visual depiction of intimate sexual behaviour (which may only be discreetly implied or discreetly simulated) or of nudity only where relevant to the story line or program context. However, a program or program segment will not be acceptable where the subject matter serves largely or wholly as a vehicle for gratuitous, exploitative or demeaning portrayal of sexual behaviour or nudity. Exploitative or non-consenting sexual relations must not be depicted as desirable.

Recording what is allowable in the R, and RC (X – Refused Classification” is more of an education that most require.

**PLAYING WITH FIRE**

If you play with fire – you get burned. For most, a burn = PAIN.

As Christians, most of us realize that to play with pornography is to be burned. The trouble is, the pornography kind of burn does not register as pain – but as pleasure.

Even when tinged with shame, guilt, fear of being caught; the excitement and curiosity will most often override the still small voice of the conscience of the morally immature – leading to potential addiction.

Job 31:1 (NIV) I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl.

PS 101:3a (NIV) I will set before my eyes no vile thing.

Psalms 101:3a (The Message) I refuse to take a second look at corrupting people and degrading things.

Interestingly most people's opinion on what constitutes porn is usually something worse than their own level of tolerance.

The word 'pornography' is derived from the Greek word 'pornea' meaning *illicit sex*.

### **FRONT PAGE STORY "PORNOGRAPHY AND THE BRAIN".**

John Severance interviewing Dr Judith Reisman in the "National Catholic Register"

**Dr Reisman:** Thanks to the latest advances in neuroscience, we now know that emotionally arousing images imprint and alter the brain, triggering an instant, involuntary, but lasting, biochemical memory trail.

Pornography triggers a myriad of endogenous, internal, natural drugs that mimic the "high" from street drugs. Addiction to pornography is addiction to what I dub erototoxins – mind altering drugs produced by the viewer's own brain. The brain experiences a confusing neurochemical "high" that the mind mislabels as sexual arousal. But this is not just sexual. If pornography triggered mere sexual arousal, it would have little or no addictive properties. You'd be similarly aroused to your beloved spouse.

What pornography does is to simultaneously trigger other allied emotions—these would arguably be feelings of shame, fear and hostility. Those are the psychopharmacological emotions that are going to go off the charts. It is an arousal the brain cannot understand. That is one reason it so often becomes addictive...I specialize in the communication effects of images on the brain, mind and memory; fraud in the human sexuality field; and the addictive properties of sexually explicit images.

**Interviewer (Severance):** Mary Anne Layden, co-director of a sexual trauma program at the University of Pennsylvania, said pornography's effect on the brain mirrors addiction to heroin or crack cocaine. Do you agree with this?

**Dr Reisman:** Yes, it could be more addictive than crack cocaine because cocaine can be excreted from the body. Pornographic images cannot. They remain, structurally and neurochemically, with a person forever.

### **STIMULATING IMAGES, DAMAGED MINDS** Dr Judith Reisman

The physiological reality... is that viewing pornography commonly triggers internal, endogenous drug production. The exposure – on computers or elsewhere – of adults, and especially children, to split-second "teaser" images incites an endogenous drug "high."

### **BRAIN SERIES; PBS 1984:** Neurologist Gary Lynch

What we're saying here is that ... an event which lasts half a second within five to 10 minutes has produced a structural change that is in some ways as profound as the structural changes one sees in [brain] damage.

### **CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION FROM THE SCRIPTURES!**

HEBREWS 13:4 Honour marriage, and guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between wife and husband.

PROVERBS 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

PROVERBS 6:25 Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes,

MATTHEW 5:27-29 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

JOB 14:4 Who can bring what is pure from the impure? No one!

JOB 31:1 "I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl.

PSALMS 101:3 I will set before my eyes no vile thing.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:23-24 ...the parts that we think are less honourable we treat with special honour. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment.

ROMANS 12:1-2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

PHILIPPIANS 4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.

ROMANS 12:9b Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

There are things God never intended us to see outside of our own marriage bed. And as far as perversion of His gift, things we should never see at all.

**Ravi Zacharias** writes...

"Art does not have a sovereignty over morality but dares to assign itself that privilege. Sinister minds, whether or not they are artistic, cannot whitewash evil by renaming it."

### **EXERCISE 1.**

Write a paragraph on why this is relevant to the topic of sexuality **at your level**.

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### **EXERCISE 2.**

Reb Bradley is a radio counsellor and talk show host, a writer and national conference speaker. He wrote the list of points about T.V. on page 16. Each of these points is negative. While there are many good points about television also, without defending T.V. look for truth in each statement and choose 10 to comment positively about at the bottom of page 16. Please enlarge it from only speaking of TV to all forms of media entertainment. (i.e. Games, music, internet etc).

**DANGERS OF TELEVISION – REB BRADLEY**

1. It provides great temptation to sin
2. It robs children of their innocence
3. It desensitizes
4. It mesmerizes and feeds the subconscious
5. It corrupts our values
6. It creates perceived needs
7. It creates godless heroes
8. It makes the viewer partners to sin
9. It gives instruction on bad behaviour
10. It promotes godless problem solving
11. It creates a false view of reality
12. It fuels the imagination with negative images
13. It teaches a "no consequence" lifestyle
14. It breeds unreal fear
15. It promotes mistrust and cynicism
16. It feeds self-centeredness and self-indulgence
17. It breeds intolerance of deprivation and moderation
18. It destroys the attention span
19. It creates an appetite for entertainment
20. It destroys creativity
21. It hinders the reasoning process
22. It creates artificially induced stress
23. It promotes violent behaviour
24. It breaks down interpersonal communication
25. It desensationalizes miracles
26. It feeds the desire for supernatural and occult power
27. It can be habit-forming
28. It is addictive in nature
29. It is damaging to our physical health
30. It offers escape from reality and responsibility

Statement number

1	_____	_____
2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____
4	_____	_____
5	_____	_____
6	_____	_____
7	_____	_____
8	_____	_____
9	_____	_____
10	_____	_____