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ChristianityToday

March 11, 2008

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Christianity Today, March, 2008

Help for the Sexually Desperate

More and more, Christian men are admitting they've been caught in a vicious cycle.

John W. Kennedy | posted 3/07/2008 08:17AM

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Today, Allie knows all the details in the book, although she doesn't want to read it. The Larkins spend virtually every evening together. After years of emotional detachment, Nate's gregarious laugh at the eatery is evidence that his best friend is his wife.

Opportunity Awaits

Experts say sexual addiction is bound to worsen because teens are today's largest porn users. Addiction begins with simple temptations or manageable sexual problems. But says East Hill Church's Roberts, "No matter where I travel in the world men have the same problem, but no one talks about it."

While addiction is a crippling weakness, when brought to light, it's a form of empowerment. Laaser says he is weary of retelling his personal tragedy, but it's necessary to offer hope to others. "Silence is the greatest enemy of sexual health," he says.

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"There are wounded men in every country medicating their pain through sexually compulsive behavior," says Vogelman, who spent 23 years as an international high-tech healthcare business consultant. "But the very guys that Satan poisons are coming out of that bondage to minister to other men as they recover themselves."

Several therapists and pastors liken sex addiction to a coming tsunami. Larkin thinks they're off base.

"The tidal wave has passed," he says. "We're standing around in our shorts."

Yet Larkin is optimistic. "This new epidemic provides the church with an unparalleled opportunity," he says. "The Enemy has overplayed his hand. Desperate men will do what they have to do to get help."



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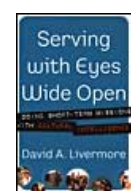
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John W. Kennedy is a consulting editor for CT and news editor for Today's Pentecostal Evangel.

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[Inside CT: Porn's Stranglehold](#) tells more about what John Kennedy found about Christians and porn in writing about sexual addiction.

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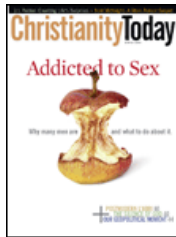
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Shane

Posted: March 11, 2008 8:07 PM

★★★★★

I used to seek solutions through support groups and behavior modification for my own sex addiction. (& I'm not talking about porn; I'm talking serious promiscuity.) But I found a greater healing when I stopped obsessing about changing my behavior & beating myself up for it, and learned to accept love and grace in a community of deep fellowship & pursued Christ hungrily through spiritual disciplines. Temptation, for me at least, began to diminish in power. Dallas Willard talks about the "era of sin management" in his book *The Divine Conspiracy* & the problem with placing the emphasis on changing behavior over maturing in Christ. I think these approaches fall under that well-intended but off-the-mark emphasis. I feel compelled to add that Vogelmann's comment about the "spotless bride of Christ" is an unfortunate one; it says, essentially, that those of us struggling with sexual sin are the culprits, we're the blemishes in the house. Our sin is the worst. Frankly, it's bull%&@#.

Steve

Posted: March 08, 2008 7:57 PM

★★★★★

ANYONE addicted to ANYTHING is just a simpleton. Period. Good grief, just take control of your life.

Ruth

Posted: March 08, 2008 3:09 PM

★★★★★

Thank you for this article. Even though I am a woman, I am also a recovering sex addict, and I really appreciated this article drawing attention to the issue. I think for women especially it is hard to admit we have a problem because the common perception is that only Men struggle in this area. We hear all our lives that it is normal for men to think about sex but that women think about relationships. I personally believe that it is both a sin an addiction. It starts out as sin and

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the addiction develops. I know for myself that i literally could not stop. Even when I would stop viewing porn for a short period of time, I could not remove the fantasies from my head. They would play over and over in my mind, no matter how hard I tried to remove them. It is only with the help of God and others around me that I have begun to heal.

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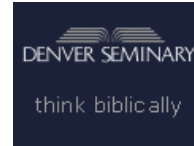
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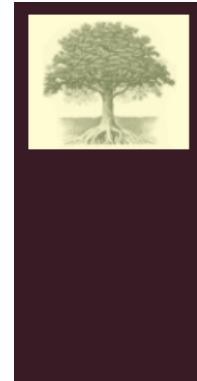


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