

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." III John 4

No Greater Joy

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The Church At Cane Creek, 1000 Pearl Rd., Pleasantville, TN 37033

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WARNING

THIS MONTH'S PUBLICATION CONTAINS INFORMATION TARGETING MARRIED COUPLES AND MATURE TEENAGERS.

Self-Control

Two-year-old Johnny was sitting in his mother's lap at the kitchen table. He reached for a dish of steamed squash, but his mother pulled him back and said "No." He twisted his shoulders back and forth as if to break her grasp, and then he defiantly slapped the table with the palm of his hand. His face expressed anger. He made grunting noises that were clearly designed to imitate an angry bear. He highly resented his mother limiting his powers of indulgence. He wanted to indulge his sense of touch, smell, taste, and sight, along with the human drive to manipulate. And finally, he wanted to indulge in controlling his environment and those in it. This mentality of 'give it to me now' has been developing since the day he was born. He has now had two years to accept it as a way of life. His parents are wondering if they should start training him to exercise self-control.

However, they are two years overdue.

Parents are responsible to impart values and self-control to their children, but there is a dilemma. The infant has fully developed fleshly desires and habits of indulgence long before his mental faculties have developed to the level where he can understand the need to exercise self-control. When a child gets old enough to begin to develop a will to exercise self-control (possibly around three or four) his flesh is already well practiced in the dark arts of indulgence. His flesh will get a three or four year headstart on the development of his sense of duty. He is born with a wanton but no stopper – with a gas peddle but no brake. At age three or four he will already be a confirmed 'pleasure junkie', a 'do as I please rebel', an 'if it feels good do it hippie', a 'nobody tells me what to do politician', a spoiled brat. With intemperate habits already well

formed, he is not going to appreciate the call of his newly developing conscience toward self-restraint. Nor will he appreciate anyone else trying to impose limitations on his addiction to indulgence.

In the extraordinary ignorance of modern psychology we are told that the child should be left to his own free expressions, that we must be careful not to suppress his personality. What will you do when his free expressions are antisocial, when his behavior is disgusting and embarrassing? Will you call it modern art, and appreciate it for its original departure from the prudent? To allow 'free expression' is to allow the child the freedom to be in bondage to appetite and carnal desire. We would no more allow a child the freedom to wander and explore the bounds of his drives and passions than we would allow him the freedom to wander in traffic. If you lovingly provide everything a child needs, but fail to cross his will with enforced boundaries, you will by default produce a self-centered, carnally minded, emotionally disturbed, and, at the

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best, an average member of the group hanging out at the mall.

Selfish Self-control

If parents don't institute and enforce boundaries, the child will eventually develop some of his own. It happens by osmosis as he bumps into the boundaries that society erects for its own selfish ends. A man that wants to eat everything learns to control his drive until he gets out of the store. A man that wants to get drunk, yet wants to keep his job so as to have enough money to keep drinking, learns not to drink on the job. His self-interests will cause him to exercise the level of self-restraint necessary to continue functioning in a circle that 'indulges and lets indulge'. Any self-control your child develops out of his contact with society is going to be for the purpose of advancing his indulgence with the least amount of friction.

It is universal to disguise one's fleshly living as some form of self-restraint. This is possible because of that segment of society that has thrown off all restraint and indulges its flesh to the extreme. The radical fringe makes the vast majority of intemperate sinners look normal by comparison. The socially conscious majority are pragmatic enough to exercise sufficient self-restraint so as to maximize their indulgence without diminishing their mental pleasure in regard to their pride of life. In other words, the middle of the road sinner will learn to balance intemperance over against his desire to appear moral. His relative self-control is prompted by desires to both indulge and maintain a reputation that offers the most mental satisfaction. It is a juggling act of balancing one pleasure against another – the end always the same: self-gratification. This calculated and rationed self-restraint will never produce benevolence and godliness; it will produce sophisticated, culturally adapted hypocrites, who seek the fulfillment of animal drives while pretending a

higher motive.

If you learn to function this way without hurting anyone other than a few people close to you, society will consider you mature and emotionally stable. You will succeed in life and will be considered a good "Christian." Wanting to appear righteous is not the same thing as wanting to be righteous. Sin has many roots and quite a few disguises. Jesus said, "You do indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but within you are full of dead men's bones."

In our present age, a child has no hope unless his parents have the wisdom and courage to ignore modern psychology and the low expectations of the church as they train up the child in the way he should go. Basically a child needs two things: a stable secure environment of love and understanding, and boundaries consistently enforced by a dignified authority.

It is the parent's responsibility to cause the child to exercise moderation and restraint. When a child is less than two years old, you cannot expect him to offer any assistance in constraining his appetites and drives. He will eat everything that tastes good, demand anything that appeals to him, expect to be the center of attention, and is unwilling to wait for any reason. Face the fact: no child is going to develop wholesome self-control naturally, and if you wait for him to get old enough to adopt the relative standards of society, you will find yourself fighting a battle against well entrenched depravity.

So how do we induce a child to practice self-control in the early years before he is mature enough to understand the need to do so? A small child learns self-control when his will is constrained by an outside force – in our case, that outside force is his parents. For the constraint to translate into soul training it must make use of the child's will. If you tie a child's hands behind his back, you have negated his ability to learn

to control his hands. Likewise, if you place an object out of reach, the child cannot learn to restrain himself from reaching for it. Self-control is learned when self is controlling self. Pressure must be placed on the child's will, not restraint on his body. The will of the child must be bracketed with constraints that cause him to *choose* to control his impulses.

You may ask how it is beneficial to *constrain* the child to choose the end we dictate if his choosing does not spring from his own values. Is the child building character if he chooses 'A' simply because we are there to make it very unpleasant for him to choose 'B', on which his lust is focused?

Here is the key, the reason behind early conditioning. We are constraining the volitional part of the child to control the appetite part. In other words, we are exercising the spirit and will of the child, causing the soulish self to exercise command over the fleshly self. Just as we move the limbs of a stroke victim in anticipation of the day when he will be able to move them, so we exercise the child's will against the resistance of his fleshly drives, and this in anticipation of the day when his soul will be mature enough to value temperance. By causing the child to employ the mechanics of moral choice, he is denying his propensity to intemperance and is stunting the growth of his flesh, keeping it from gaining ascendancy over the soul. Thus, when the child is old enough to hold his own moral values, he will already possess a will that is accustomed to exercising control over the flesh, and he will already be comfortable with the idea that life is built around the concept of self-control and self-denial. By way of illustration, we are not waiting for him to become a confirmed alcoholic; we are causing him to refuse the first drink.

People control impulses to seek

pleasure only when they deem it needful to do so. Adults can see the future and recognize the ill consequences of indiscriminate gratification, but a child can see only immediate pleasure or pain. His reason and conscience is worthless as a guide – powerless against the ever-present lust for pleasure. He knows no tomorrow, no day of judgment. If ill consequences do not come with the first bite or first touch, he does not consider the consequences. Don't bother to tell him that too much candy will give him cavities or incline him to diabetes. Don't bother to warn him that too much television will stunt his intellectual and social growth and diminish the quality of his life when he is grown. If it promises to feel good right now, he will do it. You are wasting your time to warn a little fat girl that she must exercise self-control in her eating lest she will produce more fat cells, thus inclining her to obesity when she is grown. It won't even do any good to warn her that when she is older and wanting to impress the fellows that most of them will pass her by because she is fat. She just says, "Pass the mayonnaise and cheese dip." You are wasting the child's time to tell her to wait because "patience is a virtue." She can't eat virtue, and she thinks patients are in hospitals. "I want too eat now, so why shouldn't I?"

Later on she may give up food because she values her sex appeal and social image more than eating, but she has just traded one indul-

gence for another. She has not learned self-control. She has learned to discriminate between the various roads to pleasure. Her soul still has but one end – self-gratification.

Self-control is not expressed in any one act; it is a condition of heart. It is the character to sacrifice any gratification, legitimate or otherwise, for the sake of divine principle. It is following the high road at the expense of any pleasure or comfort. The entire moral condition could be summed up in the concept of self-control. While we live in these bodies of flesh, the definition of righteousness is almost synonymous with self-control. If you have not trained the child to temperance by the time he is three or four years old, then you have allowed depravity to perfect itself.

So how do you cause a child to make a choice to deny his most pressing passions? If flesh is more fun, why would a child choose principle? He won't unless you add some element that convinces him there is more immediate pleasure in principle than passion, or more immediate pain in passion than in principle.

The child cannot yet understand that which is obvious to a mature Christian, that lack of self-control is sin, and in the end sin brings misery and death. There is a sowing and reaping principle in place. "*For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*" (Galatians

6:8). Sin (lack of self-control) has negative consequences. Self-control (righteousness) has positive consequences. All intemperance, willfulness, lust, greed, self-seeking, and carnal indulgence is sin. Sin ends in death. The Bible testifies that in eternity sin will end in damnation. The consequence of sin may not come for 80 years – until judgment day, but it will come.

The child is incapable of understanding long range consequences – whether one year from now or eternity. Parents must modify the child's environment to make the negative consequences immediately apparent to the child. This will require the fabrication of a rule of

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law based on real reward and punishment in the here-and-now. Parents must construct circumstances so as to give the child a true representation of reality. You cannot explain to a two-year-old that if he runs into the road he could be hurt, but you can apply a rod that causes him to feel the hurt when he crosses the sidewalk. You cannot tell a child that it is illegal to ride in a car unless in a restraining device. He will not understand the cost of a ticket or the potential for harm, but he can well understand the harm to his backside if he does not immediately sit down, buckle up, and enjoy the ride.

Keep in mind, the younger the child is the less he is able to retain in his memory the association between the act and the consequences. The smaller a child is the more he lives in the present only. That is why so many parents have found their spankings so ineffective when they remove the child from the scene of the transgression to administer discipline. By the time the child has been led into the bedroom, he has forgotten the transgression. He associates the spanking with the bedroom, not the deed done in the living room. The same loss of association occurs when you delay spanking to grill the child with long lectures. He forgets the transgression and thinks he is getting a spanking for being bored with the speech. It is much more effective to keep several rods handy – one in every room – and be ready to administer one or two licks within seconds of the transgression. You don't need to make a lengthy ritual out of it. Some parents try to turn discipline into a revival meeting, complete with altar calls.

Likewise if you are not consistent, and you allow the child to occasionally get away with his lack of self-control, you are allowing a seed of dark hope to grow in his imagination. It doesn't matter that you spank him five consecutive times

for the same offense; if you fail to spank him the sixth time he commits the offense, he will keep violating the rule, bearing the pain, hoping for the exception to roll around again.

You need to compare the child's desire to indulge to the desire of an alcoholic. It is not rational. It is idiotic. Just the smell of indulgence will drive a child to absurd lengths. If every time an alcoholic took a drink, the alcohol produced an immediate hangover, once the drunk convinced himself that the pattern would never change, he would cease to drink. He drinks because there is immediate pleasure in it. Children abandon themselves to uncontrolled indulgence because it is immediately pleasurable, and they care not for the next hour, much less for the rest of their lives.

Parenting is being on the spot to bring discipline to every area of a child's life. If the child is to grow morally, we must arrange the consequences so that the child is always rewarded for the proper behavior and suffers for the negative. Make all negative behavior counterproductive and all positive behavior productive. Thwart any attempt of the child to act without restraint, by artificially constructing negative consequences. The rod is the ultimate negative consequence.

But don't depend on the rod alone. In reality, the rod is not sufficient by itself. Training is much broader, and in most cases can achieve the desired end very effectively long before you must resort to the rod. If you can consistently deny a child the indulgence he desires, you need not spank. The bottom line is not that the child be spanked, but that the proposed infraction is thwarted to the point of being unpleasant.

If you arrange circumstances so as to constrain the child to choose correctly, you are strengthening his soul while starving his flesh, and you are preventing bad habits from

developing. Then when the child is old enough to possess the reigns of his soul, the transfer will be easy. He learns why one thing is right and why another is wrong, and he begins to make his own decisions based on values that are now his own. Self-control is the foundation of all civilization and the essence of law and righteousness. Start training from the day he is born. If you missed the first few years, you will experience a lot of resistance to the new order from the older kids, but you must stand by your guns until they are convinced that you will not vacillate, and then reconstruct your home around peace, love, and self-control. ☺

MISSION-ARY

Michael Braband has returned to East Timor, taking his sister with him this time. There has been no public school there in the last year since the country was destroyed by war. Everything is quiet and peaceful, but the rebuilding will take years. Michael has an opportunity to stock the schools with Christian oriented literature. The officials have agreed to use anything he provides. It is a huge undertaking. School opens in October. If you know where he can secure thousands of Christian based school books in Portuguese, for shipment to East Timor, contact us by e-mail, on our web site, or by letter.

Tom & Kathy in S. E. Asian

We have written about a young man from our church that is in a S. E. Asian country closed to the gospel and to missionaries. He went to their university and learned the language well. He has since translated portions of the New Testament and then printed and distributed it secretly to the believers, who then distributed it to other believers. Less than one year ago, T. J's. parents, Tom and Kathy, in their mid fifties, went to Asia to visit their missionary son. While there Tom heard about the foreigners in the prisons. Through clandestine means, he was able to visit one prisoner, whom he led to the Lord. He came back home burdened for those in prison. Just months after returning home, he put his affairs in order and Tom and his wife, Kathy, returned as missionaries. They are about one day's travel from their son. They did not seek support, but went entirely on faith and the disability check he receives (about \$900.00 per month, before their house note).

Due to the sensitive nature of the following e-mails names and places have been left out.

Tom and Kathy's e-mails.

"The prisoners and the national Christians here are amazed that we gave up a wonderful "country life" in America and came here. (Actually we are too!) But we tell them the story of Tom's last trip over here and how God really wanted us to come here. So here we are! It's been very rewarding so far and we expect it to keep growing. The people are very warm & loving but the city life is VERY undesirable. Loud & smelly & the crowds of people can wear you down. But then we think of the prisoners and what their conditions are and we feel guilty for complaining. I could tell you stories about some of the prisoners, but this letter is long enough for now. So if you will, please pray for us here. And

please pray for the prisoners here, especially the ones at B. B. where the new guys enter the system. They are "ripe" for the gospel. Also pray for the ladies in the Women's Prison. There are 7000 women in prison here and I can only see 4-5 of them a week. The prison church is very strong and growing, so pray that it continues. There are 20 buildings between the two prisons with about 1000 inmates each. And each building has English speakers in it. There are about 3000 foreigners in prison here.

You asked if we need anything. We need some tapes we can use for masters. I don't care whether or not a series is edited or finished, we just need Mike's teachings. Genesis, Romans, Hebrews, Daniel, Ephesians, John, etc.

I need 20 Revelation charts & guides, 20 Repentance books, Mike's Commentary on Romans (we gave ours to Bob).

The prison officials will allow us to give the prisoners tape players and tapes so we are going to start reproducing tapes. Mike asked if we need any money. We need money for a tape duplicating machine (we found one from Sony for around \$1500....is that about right?) Also need 20 Chick Comic Book Series, 20 personal tape players (about \$10 each here), \$ for tapes. Also \$ for transportation to and from the prisons (about \$5 a day). We are getting by as far as living expenses. There is a great need in the prison. Example: if someone needs a prescription of 20 pills, Pastor Charlie usually can only fill it with 10 pills. They have recently lost some of their support from the States, so they have had to cut back on certain things. It takes \$27 a month to keep a prisoner from starving to death. We have already taken on one prisoner ourselves and would like to take on more but we are limited. It's not that they can't get food. It's just

that it's extremely hot and portions are small. And foreigners develop peptic ulcers (they call it bitter stomach). After awhile they just stop eating. About 200 prisoners die in the country each month. We know that this is a lot to ask. And anything you can do to help will be greatly appreciated. Thanks for ALL you've done already.

At the smaller prison there are 10 buildings. We can only visit prisoners from 3 of those buildings each week. The first week of the month is Bldgs 1,2 & 3. The next week is 4, 5, &6. The next week is 7,8, & 9. We only visit this prison on Monday mornings and Tuesday mornings. Building 10 prisoners can only be visited on Wed. & Thurs. We go to the Big Prison (K. P.) on Tuesday afternoon and Thurs. morning. K. P. has 5 sections in it. One section is the Women's Prison. I go there on Tuesday afternoons and visit some ladies. Another section is B. B.. This is where new prisoners are processed. Tom & Charlie Holmes go there and give the new prisoners Bibles and gospel tracts and visit with them. Sometimes these prisoners are there for just a few days and sometimes they are there for several months. Pastor Holmes found out that it's very beneficial to "hit them early."

Building 10 is the punishment building. So we are going to try and visit them on Friday mornings. Building 4 at this particular prison is now drug free due to the Christians in there. Some of the stronger Christian men there had themselves transferred to Building 6 to try and make it drug free. But the guards heard about it and it made them mad. They are the ones who deal the drugs to the prisoners and make their "extra income." So the guards had these Christians sent to Building 10 for punishment. The other prisoners who have talked to us about Bldg. 10 tell us that it is absolutely horrific. Heavy chains, little food, beatings, etc. The conditions are very extreme.

(Continued on page 12)

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Pearl,

We were thrilled to be a part of the conference in Concord, NC. We drove over 4 hours just to be there. It was particularly exciting as we had just found out that we are expecting our 5th child (and our oldest is 5!) Now, if you had told me 3 years ago that this news would excite me, I would not have believed you...we were overwhelmed by the two little boys we had. A friend took pity on me and gave me a copy of To Train Up a Child. "Bootie Camp" was begun by my husband and it made all the difference! What is most exciting is that as God has added to our quiver, we have been able to train right from the beginning, which has made our job so much easier...retraining is definitely much harder.

But even more than our children's obedience, as we have continued reading and listening to your materials, we picked up on something we missed at first—we really began to enjoy our children. We love to be with them, to talk, work, play, wrestle and hug. The thought of more children is exciting..."the more the merrier."

We are buying the video set and a few other materials because so many of our friends (with one or two children) come to us seeking advice and our "secret." I don't want to keep this "secret" from others and neither does my husband. The video set seems the best way to help our friends begin to experience the same joy in their children as we have.

Thank You,
Steve & Kara Murphy

Michael & Debi Pearl published To Train Up a Child in August 1994. By August of 2000 over 260,000 English copies have been sold. It has also been translated into several foreign languages, including Ukrainian, Mandarin (Chinese), Portuguese, German, and Spanish.

This publication came about as a way to answer the many questions received in the mail each day. Other books have followed which answer the many questions.

The Pearls receive no remuneration from the sale of these books and tapes. This is a ministry operated through The Church At Cane Creek where Michael Pearl is pastor/teacher. The low prices reflect our concern to make these materials available to as many as possible. We give a 38-45% discount on books by the Pearls when purchased in volumes of eight or more. We also make available a limited number of books and videos that we believe will be a great blessing to your family.

We are dedicated to the advancement of the gospel of Jesus Christ in those countries where Christ is least known. Monies received from books and tapes more than pay for their distribution. After operating expenses, all money from the sale of books goes to foreign missions. All gifts go directly to foreign missions, none being retained here in the States, unless otherwise designated by the donor.

All who have ordered materials from us during the past twelve months are automatically put on our mailing list to receive our free monthly newsletter. However, you need not purchase materials to continue receiving this newsletter. We are here to serve you, but we must know that you are interested. If we haven't heard from you in a year, drop us a brief note, or just a card with your name and address. It is our joy to serve you. ☺

WARNING

THIS ARTICLE CONTAINS INFORMATION TARGETING MARRIED COUPLES AND MATURE TEENAGERS. YOU SHOULD READ IT FIRST AND THEN DECIDE IF YOU WANT YOUR CHILDREN TO READ IT. BE PREPARED TO ANSWER THEIR QUESTIONS.

Pornography – Road to Hell

Dear Debi,

My husband and I have been married for 14 years. During those years my husband has backslid several times. During those times he was involved in pornography. For the last nine months he has been praying and reading the Word, fellowshiping, leading devotionals with the family, and serving where he was needed at church. We were growing closer together everyday as a couple and as a family.

However, two weeks ago, my husband started watching the sports. He had to go to the house of his employer to watch it because we had thrown out our TV. He knew it was dangerous for him to be around it, but his boss gave him an old one so he could watch sports. I argued with him saying that we agreed not to have a TV. I did not feel safe with it in the house, especially since he put the TV out in his shop where no one else is allowed without his permission. I also told him that I could not join myself to him because I didn't know if he was joining himself to the pornography. He says he is not watching pornography, but he spends all his time out there in his shop, and sometimes even sleeps there by himself at night.

My question is, am I wrong? Am I as a wife out of line? Is pornography adultery, as I believe it is? My husband says it is not. He says it is nothing personal. It has nothing to do with me. I could go on and go about the pain it causes me, but I will not. Any type of counseling is out for him because he says I am the one with the problem.

If you could, please help me. I know you are busy and would understand if you can't. It just helps to know someone else is there with me. I know, one way or another, the Lord will direct me. He alone is faithful and true.

The grieved wife,

This publication is dedicated to child training and family. It would seem that a dissertation on pornography should be confined to a different format. But we receive many letters from wives concerned about their husband's pornographic

indulgence. The letters we receive are from homeschooling, no birth control, go to church, 'put on a good front' families. Wives want to know how they can train up their children to follow the Lord when their

husbands are secretly following porn queens. At one large meeting of several thousand "Christian" men, over 50% of those present confessed to having "used pornography" in the previous seven days. Most ministers avoid ever mentioning this shameful

subject. Of those that do, the majority treat it as a “weakness” that Christians should “overcome with counseling.” I disagree. We too have avoided addressing the subject because of its sensitiveness. Some of you who live in isolation (thank God that you do) may be offended at my frankness. But you must understand that the life of many families and the souls of their children are at stake.

I would want my children to read this article. The degree to which they understand the words would be a general guide as to how much they are ready to consider. I would then discuss it with them, according to their maturity. But you may not. It’s your choice. Just be apprised of the fact that most kids are exposed to some form of pornography by the time they are ten years old.

Now I am speaking to you, fathers. If you isolate yourself in a room and indulge in pornography, you are not sick; you are evil. You are having intercourse with a computer, or with the pages of a publication. In effect you are having an erotic experience with the editor—probably another man. While you are fanaticizing with that commercially produced image, know that there are thousands of others engaged in eroticism with the same image, at the same time as you. You are part of a disgusting group of perverts, all piled onto the same image together. And somewhere there is a sexually dysfunctional editor enjoying the extent of his erotic powers.

You are not oversexed. You are not even sexed. You are alone. At best you are copulating with yourself. Don’t tell me that you are getting yourself primed for a conclusion with your wife. It is the priming that draws you back again and again, not the conclusion. You are a pervert. A real man is bigger than his member. He is big enough to say no to his passions. A man whose passions are stimulated to the point of being all consuming is not a man of greater prowess. He is a man whose soul has

shrunk until his little member is the strongest thing left. God created us with sexual drive, but he also gave us a steering wheel and a brake to direct and control our drives. If you can’t control yours, it is not a statement of the strength of your drive, but of the weakness of your soul. You are wasting away to the level of an alley cat. Adam fell, but you are falling even further. You are plunging your soul into eternal destruction, moving as far away from God as you can get. You are lost and helpless by choice. You do not deserve sympathy or understanding; you deserve condemnation and scorn. You are not a victim; you are a perpetrator. You justify your addiction by pointing to the many who have fallen as you have, but you are condemned by the many who have not fallen, and by the many who were once where you are but have since repented and been restored to normalcy.

While you justify yourself, your own conscience condemns you. You sneak around like a thief as you lie and deceive. Your whole life is dedicated to the dragon. Your body is being consumed as your soul is being digested. You are having communion with the devil – bowing in worship of the flesh. You are a disciple of evil. You have chosen to be part of a group that defiles their own flesh, – *“that worships and serves the creature more than the Creator, whose god is their belly, whose glory is their shame.”* (Romans 1:25; Philippians 3:19).

Very few ever return from the pit into which you are sinking. You have taken the downhill slide into Hell, and there is absolutely nothing to stop you except your willingness to apply the brakes. The problem is that you are more addicted today than you were one year ago, and you will continue to fade into the shadows of debauchery until you are one with the evil on which you feed. You are on the road of no return and every day you are less likely to reverse your course.

The lust you have created is

never satisfied. It is an itch with no scratch, only more itch. Pornographic satisfaction is like the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow – always just out of reach. The lust of pornography draws a man ever deeper into the dark tunnel of promise until he discovers he has missed life and love. Pornography destroys your ability to “make love,” and replaces it with the cunning wit to use and abuse. There comes a point when any attempt at a normal relationship is nothing more than assisted masturbation. Your world grows ever smaller until you are alone with your semen. You stink of self. You do not deserve a woman.

You have nothing to be proud of. You are not a bull. You are a dog. There are millions just like you. Most are not as hypocritical as you are. Some of them hang around bars, nightspots, and porno shops; but take note, you feed on the same diet. Your soul is a receptacle of the same putrefaction. You may yet join them, sharing not only the same books and videos, but also the same dirty motel rooms with their indigenous occupants.

“Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant. But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell.” (Proverbs 9:17-18).

So your wife is frigid? Don’t tell me that pornography is a substitute for a good woman. I was not homeschooled and protected. I am fifty-four years old. I preach in state prisons every week and have done so since I was eighteen. I have ministered in coffeehouses and rescue missions and on the street since I was sixteen. You might convince yourself that you are forced to your actions by an unresponsive wife, but I don’t buy it. I have known of porno-freaks that got married to good women, but found that they liked to be alone better than sharing. We have talked to women who are willing and ready, but their husbands prefer their own company. Pornography and a wife are not alternate ways to fulfill the

same drive. The drive for a wife is a natural drive, whereas the drive for pornography is a cultivated, perverted passion that has nothing to do with love and marriage. If a pornographer were to marry a porno queen, he would quickly become dissatisfied with her and crawl back in his little hole, alone with his imaginations and the images created by an industry that makes its money not by satisfying its customers, but by keeping them dissatisfied and hungry for the artificial. Your secret world is revolting to real men who know how to love one woman and dedicate the rest of their energies to creative living.

But the most destructive thing about your sin is the effect it has on your children. We live in a spirit world of both righteous and fallen angels. We are surrounded by evil spirits seeking the moral destruction of every human soul. The children of godly parents are protected from unclean spirits by being under their moral umbrella. But when a father gives his mind over to wicked lusts, he removes the hedge of protection around his family and invites impure devils into his home. Wishing them away will avail nothing. Any prayers you pray for their safety are negated the moment you open the pages of a pornographic book or glare at an electronic image. When you tune in to electronic pornography you have established a two-way link with the spiritual underworld. When you lie in bed at night and conjure up wicked images, the devils won't stop with your mind; they will gleefully rush into the bedrooms of your children and assault their little souls and bodies. Evil thoughts will come to their minds – thoughts you have been thinking that are telegraphed to them by the devils. Your defenseless children will be taken captive, and you are the one that threw the gate open to the enemy.

If sodomy is sin, pornography is its “significant other.” If the Bible be true when it says that those who commit fornication (Greek *porniah*,

the root of our English word *pornography*) “shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (*Galatians 5:19-21*), then the future of any and all pornography users is the suffering of eternal damnation. And in *Ephesians 5:6*, again speaking of fornication (*porniah*/pornography), he says, “*Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.*” If you think you can indulge in pornography and still be a Christian, you are blindly hoping against the clear statements of Scripture. Disciples of Christ read their Bibles, not the dirty books of Sodomites and lesbians. Every time you retreat into your world of lust, you shut the door in God's face. You are dangling your soul and the souls of your children over the fires of eternal damnation.

I have not been as hard on you as God will be in the day of judgment. You have only one hope, and that is to repent toward God. I did not tell you to repent of your sin of pornography, because as an unregenerate man you will not find the power to forsake your first love. You must repent toward God. This you can do while still in the slavery of your sin. To repent toward God is to prefer God and his righteousness above everything else. It is to desire his holiness in your life – to hate the sin that binds you. Make no mistake. The man that repents toward God is a desperate man, a man that longs for the holiness God will bring into his life. The man that repents toward God will experience restless nights and skipped meals in his search for God. A man that repents toward God will find no pleasure or peace in anything until he can rest in God alone. It will not do for you to walk down an aisle and pray a sinner's prayer. It will not be sufficient for you to ask for prayer, or to confess your sins, or go to counseling. You must go directly to God through the Lord Jesus Christ with no hope and no confidence but the mercy and grace of God.

Yes, it's OK with us.

Several people have written asking if it is OK with us if they buy our material and resell it. Absolutely! We encourage you to purchase our materials in volume and resell them at homeschool conventions or wherever your imagination takes you. Some people have found they can supplement their income and have a ministry at the same time. We will also furnish you with a number of newsletters to give away.

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God, but it is a blessed thing to stay there until you are forgiven, and cleansed, and then empowered to walk in holiness. The dragon can be killed by Christ alone. Whom Christ makes free he shall be free indeed. I have seen God save and deliver lesbians, Sodomites, and porno freaks as easily as he saves children. Christ is sufficient.

I have done you a service by increasing your guilt, by bringing the law down on you like it will in the day of judgment. Your conscience will not be satisfied by anything less than your exposure and punishment. The good news is that Jesus Christ took upon himself the shame of your sin. God laid on him your iniquity. God made Jesus to be sin in your place. He was treated as if he was the pornographer, the guilty sinner. He died the death you should die. Your sin has been paid for in the sufferings of Christ. If you repent toward God, God will forget your sin as if it had never happened. He will put away your sin and remember it no more. He will remove the guilt and free you from sin's power.

It will take years for the temptations to go away. The devils will return every day and night to offer

you the opportunity to rehearse the sin you have laid down, but God will deliver you from yielding to the pull of temptation. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the *power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth*. He is able to *save to the uttermost those that come unto God by him*.

The next move is yours. Are you so far gone that before the week is out you will return to that dirty place, or will you repent toward God and see your perversion come to an end? I wrote this for one reason – to see some children saved when daddy repents toward God. It's your move. Your children, your wife, and your God are waiting.

To the Wives of Porno-Freaks

I recognize that some wives whose husband's are porno-addicts will read the above article and feel extremely frustrated, helpless, and perhaps angry. You may be well aware of your duties as a wife, but you are so disgusted with your husband for his despicable behavior that you find it extremely difficult to honor him. How do you reverence someone who is risking the souls of your children? How do you joyfully participate in your nuptial duties when you know that you are simply a receptacle for the eroticism stirred up by his vice? I have to admit that it stretches the limits of my faith to tell you that your duty remains the same. You must honor the office, even when it is commandeered by a wicked man.

Understand that you are part of a chain of command. God is at the top, then Jesus, after that the husband, then the wife, and finally the children. Children are not given the option of deciding if their parents are worthy of their honor. When a child obeys his parents, he is obeying God. Likewise, when a wife obeys and honors her husband, she is obeying

and honoring God. If your husband misuses his office, God is the one responsible to discipline him. You can honor God by honoring the scoundrel God has permitted to be your head.

The Bible is clear: If you are married to an unbeliever, you are not to leave him and you are not to turn down his intimate advances. If circumstances are so intolerable, say in the case of violence toward you or the children, or sexual abuse toward your children, if you must leave your husband, you are commanded to remain unmarried as long as he lives, or be reconciled to him.

1 Corinthians 7:3-5, 10-14

3 Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

4 The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. [You cannot say no to his advances, except in the case of attempted Sodomy or some other deviant and degrading perversion.]

5 Defraud ye not one the other, [don't hold out on him] except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband:

11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

12 But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away.

13 And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.

14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the

unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. [The presence of one saved parent is sufficient to set the children apart unto salvation.]

If your situation is intolerable, commit it to God. I am talking a miracle. Appoint a time to get alone with God and formally turn the situation over to him. Take your hands off of it and allow God full latitude to take charge. You must be willing to endure humiliation and to remain patient indefinitely. You must be willing for God to terminate your husband's job and destroy him financially. You must be willing for him to go to jail. You must be willing to see him – the whole family – suffer humiliation. You must be willing to see your husband come down with a terrible disease. Finally, you must be willing for God to kill your husband if he will not repent. I am not suggesting that God will do any of the above, but when you place it in his hands, you must trust his decisions. God loves to be trusted. He will come to your aid if you will take your hands off of the situation. You can wrestle with it for years and never get any relief, but once you learn your lessons in faith and trust, God can work the miracle of deliverance.

If your husband is sexually abusing the children, or if he is bone-breaking violent, take it to the church. If he does not immediately repent and come under discipline, call the law and have him arrested. Whining promises followed by promises and broken promises and more promises is not acceptable. After being confronted for sexually abusing the children, if your husband does not repent in sackcloth and ashes, to never do it again, turn him over to the authorities. Testify against him, and when he gets three to twenty years in the pen, go to visit him and faithfully wait for him to get out.

God can and will work to defend

you and the children if you will truly commit it all to him and perform your duties cheerfully. It is fine for you to confront your husband concerning his pornography and let him know that you are praying for his salvation. It would be proper for you to burn any books that you find lying around the house where a child could possibly access them. If the older children are aware of your husband's pornographic indulgence, make them aware of two things. First, that your heart goes out to your husband, that you love and honor him, and that you are kindly concerned for the salvation of his soul. Second, that you are grieved that he is going to hell for the lack of Christ in his life. Let them know that you

pray for his salvation and are ashamed of his sin. Make it clear that his actions are of Satan and will bring damnation. Do this without bitterness or anger.

The great pitfall for a woman is becoming self-righteous and using this situation to dominate the relationship spiritually. Wives are inclined to dominate their husbands in the best of circumstances. Many women love to claim the higher moral ground. They have always been rebels at heart and resent any authority over them. That their husband is unworthy to be a leader is absolutely satisfying to these women. They will resort to nagging and parcel out their intimate favors as a way of controlling his behavior. Sure, they will represent themselves as promoting the interests of God and righteousness, but it is the seat of control that they covet.

Cantankerous wives can provoke their husbands to all kinds of anger and bitterness. Wives that do not enjoy the intimate relationship will leave their husbands open to temptation. But let me be clear, a lousy wife – a lousy sex partner – is not responsible for a husband turning to pornography. You do not have to carry that guilt. Just make sure you are not guilty of pride and bitterness. That combination can damn the children just as surely as pornogra-

phy. When you have a pornographic husband and a dominant wife, you have a vicious, endless cycle. It will certainly end in divorce. And even worse, the children will magnify the fruit of bitterness. Children will be hurt by a pornographic father, but they will become bitter by a nagging, domineering, condemning mother. Someone must repent and do his or her duty regardless of the spouse.

Finally, there is hope. Put it in God's hands and wait patiently. Others have seen the victory. You can too. And when you have responded to your wicked husband in kindness and love, when you have made yourself available, when you have honored the dishonorable, and your husband repents to God and gets saved and delivered, and you end up with a wonderful marriage and children faithful to God, you will be my hero. ☺

NEW on our web site:
 Join our new email list and when we add the latest newsletter to the site, we will notify you by email.
 Visit our Website at <http://NoGreaterJoy.org>

NEW

The Book of John taught by Michael Pearl to the church at Cane Creek, 1999–2000. Every verse is discussed, every critical word examined. Here is doctrinal and practical teaching to enrich your life. We want you to have these tapes, so we are making this set available for \$54.00. That's about \$2.00 per tape, factoring the cost of the albums.

Twenty-four tapes in two vinyl albums

Dear Pearls,

At last I found your web site! Just a note from Australia to let you know how much we continue to be blessed and encouraged by your ministry to families. I am constantly fielding inquiries from people who have heard about your books and are wanting more "uncommon commonsense." I also have a growing list of families who wish to receive your newsletter and who in turn pass it on to others. I continue to spread the word about your child training books, and in turn spread God's good news to families. I also wanted to let you know how much **I have enjoyed and appreciated By Divine Design**. It has been a source of revelation to me, truly helping me to come to a better understanding of the Word of God and His personality.

**What is training
but preparation of
the mind to chose?
Biblical training is
preparation of the
mind to choose
rightly.**

Dear Pearls,

Its' us again, writing to say Thanks so much for your tremendous ministry. We just watched the new videos on Child Training and boy are we ever glad that we bought them. No home should be without them and neither should a church! They have opened our eyes to so many things that we did not see before even though we've read the books and newsletters faithfully for 5 years now. By the way, we have 7 children, so we hunger for teaching in this realm. What joy your practical insights have brought to us, and we really appreciate the character that both of you display. Those videos inspired as well as entertained our whole family, and when we finished each one, they were sent to our friends (a pastor) down the road, who just had their 4th.

Also I can't thank you enough for you view of homeschooling and the approach you take. It sure is the key.

After growing up in an abusive, alcoholic home where hate was conveyed, your ministry has flooded my heart with such a hope and gladness. I am so grateful that my life has been redeemed and made new by the blood of Jesus. He has put a new song in my heart. Isn't He wonderful!!!!

M & J

Tom & Kathy

(Continued from page 5)

Even in the "good" buildings, the prisoners are 20+ per cell. Very crowded. They have to take turns sleeping because there is not enough floor space for all to stretch out. One prisoner told us that his cell was so crowded that it made it very hot. Body heat, no ventilation. Anyway, you get the picture.

On Thursday morning, Tom, Charlie, and 3 other men went INSIDE the walls of the smaller prison. Charlie has been inside the walls before, but no one has ever been into Building 1. So guess who

got the privilege of being first: Tom! This particular building is the one with the homosexuals & transvestites. Tom met with about 30 men. Tom spoke for about an hour and then they sang some hymns and gave testimonies. Tom was in there for 2 hours. On the way in, there is this one guard who always gives people a rough time. Charlie said "Oh, oh... we're in trouble. He's turned us back before. It'll take a miracle to get in today." Tom said, "Let's pray...and don't just ask for a miracle....expect one!" So they paused and said a quick prayer and then approached the guard. He let them through. No problems. Amen!

Will be praying for you. Hope

you have a safe trip and sure wish we could be there to dance at Beka's wedding. Tom always wanted to do that. Miss you all so much it hurts. Love you both.

Tom & Kathy

The day after receiving this request, someone sent the ministry a gift of several thousand dollars. We added some to it and sent it to Tom.

Pray for them. Tom has severe back pain and Kathy has arthritis.



By Debi Pearl

PLANTAIN

Several years ago, Shoshanna, our youngest daughter, created a job for herself, selling vegetable on the side of the road near our house. On one blisteringly hot, July day she chose a place on the side of the road next to a cold spring-fed creek. When no customers were in sight she would plunge into the icy waters. Then, when she heard a car drive up, she would hurriedly climb out and stand dripping and grinning beside her fresh vegetables.

Returning from town, I decided to check on her. As she heard yet another car clattering across the old wooden bridge, she hurriedly made her way to the steep bank. In her haste she forgot about the old hornet's nest ominously hanging low to the ground right over where she choose to climb out. I was just getting out of the car when I heard her tortured wail. She knew enough to dive back under the water. Hornets don't swim. She found another place to climb out and came up the bank holding her face where three big hornets had done their dirty work. You haven't been stung until you get stung by hornets? One hornet sting on your face will make you swell up like a toad frog. Three stings will turn your nose wrong side out, and swell your eyes shut. Your lips will hang out like pancakes sliding off the plate.

Well, we had to do some fast thinking. As quick as a flash, I searched the ground around me.

Fortunately, right on that side of the road was a big plant called Common Plantain. I grabbed a handful of Plantain leaves, crammed them into my mouth, and started chewing. With my mouth full of green Plantain slime, I ran to meet Shoshanna. I spit the whole gunky mess into my hand and plastered her across the face with it.

Under other circumstances, Shoshanna would have been terribly upset with someone smearing drippy, green spit all over her face, but on that afternoon she appreciated what was being done. She knew Plantain draws out surface



poison if it is applied soon enough. Of course, she would have preferred that I used the blender to mash the leaves, or even better a ready made tincture, but when you are in a big hurry, you do what you must.

Shoshanna was planning to go on a special outing the next day. She sure didn't want to have her face looking like a ripe pumpkin, so she just grimaced while I painted her face slime green. We waited for the swelling to begin. We knew the Plantain would help, but we got even better results than we expected. Within just a few minutes, the pain

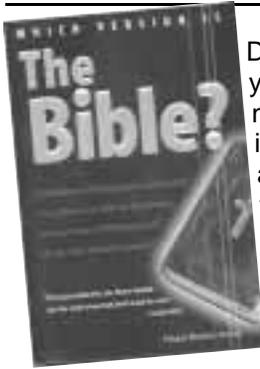
went away and her face did not swell.

Plantain is not a miracle herb; it is a plain astringent. An astringent constricts tissue, squeezing out the poison in much the manner that you would wring liquid from a dishrag.

In the plant world there are many astringents. Plantain is one of my favorites because it is so available — and it works. I keep a Plantain astringent tincture on hand to use on insect-bites, bruises, rashes, and poison ivy. Of course, the sooner you apply it the better.

A simple tincture is made by packing a jar 1/3 full of dried Plantain leaves, then filling the jar with apple cider vinegar. Shake the jar daily, and store it in a dark cool place. After 3 weeks, strain out the used herb, and bottle the liquid in a labeled jar. The tincture won't be green or slimy. It will look like dark brown vinegar. Keep all dried herbs and herbal tinctures in a dark, cool place. Many people use dried Plantain as a substitute for regular iced tea. It tastes much like regular tea and it does have nutritional value (high in calcium, crude fiber, dietary fiber, protein, silicon, and zinc — without the caffeine. It is also valued as a stimulant for the immune system.

The Bulk Herb Store, 1010 Pearl Road, Pleasantville TN 37147, carries Plantain. They also have books that will teach you more about how to use this and other herbs. Ask for a free catalog. ☺



Did you know that the King James Bible comes from the oldest and best manuscripts? Did you know that when writers or preachers use "the Greek" to correct the K. J. Bible, they are not using the Greek text from which the K. J. was translated? They are using a Greek text invented by two unbelievers in the late 19th century. Did you know that considering all ancient language manuscripts, over 95% of them support the K. J. Bible? Did you know that the reason there are over 200 different English translations, a new "bible" every nine months, translated entirely different from its predecessors, is purely for economic gain? The King James Bible remains the only Word of God to English speaking people.

How could so many "good godly men be so wrong?" Read this 281 page scholarly book and find out. Be ready to loose your innocence concerning the trustworthiness of institutionalized Christianity. Intellectual blindness isn't confined to the evolutionists.

Dear Debi,

Hi. I just thought I would write and tell you something. I have been homeschooling for about 9 years. It has been hard and no fun. The children hated it and I hated it and they did not learn very much. About 9 months ago I listened to your Homeschooling Tape. So I started teaching my children real life skills. That was good. But they still needed to learn something like the times tables, spelling, and how to write. That part was going no where fast. Well, my mom gave me "the Home School" magazine. It had some tapes and books in it that started us on the right tract. My 1 year-old knows her letters and sounds and she begs for the apple book which has the letters and sounds in it. My children have had a hard time learning their times so I found a times table music tape. That helped a lot, but they were still having trouble. I made a memory game where I put 4x3 on one side and 12 on the other and we play games. My daughter has learned her 4 times table in 2 days. I also made a memory game out of the states and capitals. My children love it. My children ask to do school when it is playtime. My daughter said she loves school now, and she is glad I got your Homeschooling Tape. Here are the addresses of some places where I have bought the games and sing along stuff. Maybe it can help someone so they don't have to have 9 years of school they hate. Sing, Spell, Read and Write 1-800-321-8322--International Learning Systems of North am. 1000 112th Circle North

Suite 100, St. Petersburg, FL 33716--The Home School PO 308, North Chelmsford, MA 01863-0308

I now enjoy my children and we have fun doing school.

Mother of 5 with one on the way.

New Website Address:

<http://NoGreaterJoy.org>

The Church at Cane Creek
1000 PEARL ROAD
PLEASANTVILLE, TN 37033

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