



For the Strength of Parents

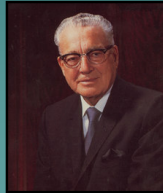
Helping Teens Follow Prophets: Pornography & Sexual Purity

What Sized Hole Are You Looking Through?



If we don't listen to the prophets, then why have them?

Elder Harold B. Lee said, "Every soul today that is not hearkening unto the ... inspired counsel that comes from the [Lord's] leaders is being deceived by the power of Satan, and they are gradually coming to be in his power.... Satan never goes on vacation. He never sleeps" (Harold B. Lee, *Children's Friend*, June 1949, 254-255).



We Must Even Eat the Spinach!

"This is a hard but necessary dimension of the doctrine about living prophets, and each in his circumstantial turn will need to be tested to see if he really subscribes to it. Our relationship to living prophets is *not* one in which their sayings are a smorgasbord from which we may take only that which pleases us. We are to partake of all that is placed before us, including the spinach, and to leave a clean plate!" (Neal A. Maxwell, *Things As They Really Are* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1978], 74).

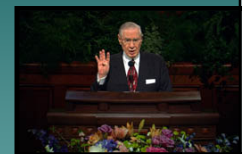
What About the Spinach?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Be in Full Harmony with the Savior

"I do not believe members of this church can be in full harmony with the Savior without sustaining his living prophet on the earth, the President of the Church. If we do not sustain the living prophet, whoever he may be, we die spiritually" (James E. Faust, *Ensign*, November 1989, 9).



What We Need Today

"What we need today is not more prophets. We have the prophets. But what we need is more people with listening ears. That is the great need of our generation" (J. Rueben Clark, Jr. CR, October 1948, 82).

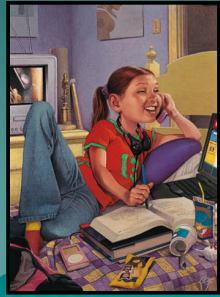


Canaries in the Mine

"I have been in a few mines as a visitor. It is interesting that even visitors receive safety training and are equipped with safety equipment before entering the mine. Modern mines have devices to monitor air quality so that if there is a problem, the miners have some warning and can quickly leave the mine. Before modern monitoring systems were developed, miners used to take canaries down into the mines with them. Canaries are more susceptible to the poisonous gases and would be asphyxiated before the miners were affected. If the canary died, the miners knew to get out of there. It was a type of early warning system."

A Few Canaries Among Our Youth

1. Teens and cell phones
2. MySpace
3. Pornography



Going to Heck in a Hand Basket

"You cannot allow teenagers who don't have a clue about life make decisions that will destroy their lives... You cannot allow your children to go to hell under your watch" (Elder Blake Sonne, 5th Quorum of the Seventy, *Family Together Forever Parenting Conference*, Tupelo Mississippi Stake, February 2006).

Concern #1: Teens and Cell Phones

- ◆ Teenagers and cell phones are often not a good combination.
- ◆ My wife and I can tell you from first hand experience. Our last cell phone bill was more than our first house payment.
- ◆ Thankfully, our children have jobs, and they get to contribute to the bill.
- ◆ But there are many reasons why parents must monitor the use of cell phones with their teenagers.

Cell Phones and School

Just because kids are in school doesn't mean their phones are turned off. Thirty-eight percent of teens surveyed text-message with friends during school hours. A smaller 30 percent of students say they play video games on their phones while at school. Parents who look at their kid's calls will realize 26 percent of kids speak with people mom and dad wouldn't approve of.

Cell Phones and Teen Socialization

- ◆ The cell phone has become a primary mode of socializing for teens and they will often avoid contact with peers that don't have cell phones, according to a study by Context. The Baltimore company uses anthropologists to study consumer trends.
- ◆ "Next time a teenager says, 'Mom if I don't have a phone,' or 'Dad, if I don't have a phone, I'm going to be a nobody,' they are being serious," said Robbie Blinkoff, Context's principal anthropologist.

The Selfish Cell Phone Culture

- ◆ Cell Phone Culture is a selfish, individual culture.
- ◆ Unlike when we were teenagers, and when you went to call someone of the opposite sex, or a friend— everyone in the family room was listening.
- ◆ Today, kids are talking out in the driveway, in the car, out in the back yard— and parents have no idea who they are talking to, or what they are saying.
- ◆ Rudeness; phone calls during dinner; phone calls in social situations, phone calls at 3:00 a.m., text messaging during church, and during class.
- ◆ Yesterday, man told me about a couple text messaging in the celestial room

Parents, Monitor Cell Phone Use

- ◆ Have your children turn the phone in each night before bed.
- ◆ Now with easy pornography download capability— be aware!
- ◆ Perhaps using the phone for emergencies rather than convenience
- ◆ Monitor minutes and who they are talking to.
- ◆ Have some ground rules: 1) Don't need it during church [text messaging during church meetings, 2) Who they can call, 3) who they give their numbers to, 4) limit minutes

Concern #2: My Space.Com

- ◆ Be real careful here. In our home, there is no "My Space" allowed. Our kids have "No Space"
- ◆ This is a garbage site. Because we had an incident in our home where a young man put our daughter on my space, we had to get involved quickly— this is one of the worst websites our latter-day Saint Youth can be exposed to.

MySpace

- ◆ On this site, youth are exposed to lewdness, pornography, sex talk
- ◆ Over 100 million people currently have a MySpace account, and the site attracts more than 4% of all internet traffic daily.
- ◆ If your child has hours to spend on this website, your child has way too much time on their hands



MySpace

Police, call MySpace a predator's buffet. Simultaneous to the meteoric growth of the site is its increasing connection to crimes involving the young, including harassment, rape, molestation and murder.

Dateline Findings

When "Dateline" surfed MySpace, they found scenes of binge drinking, apparent drug use, teens posing in underwear, and other members simulating sex, and in some cases even having it.... Teens listed not only their names, and addresses, but even cell phone numbers and after school schedules.

Self Creation and Deception

"When people join MySpace, they discover a world where they can be whatever and whoever they want to be. Sometimes young people struggling with low self-esteem may tune out friends and family to meet and impress people with an imaginary or exaggerated identity online. Cyber interaction can replace reality for these individuals" (*Internet Guide for Parents*, Family Research Council, Washington, D.C., 10).

Concern #3: Pornography

"Pornography is evil. I love the story told at the funeral of Henry Eyring's father. When he was a young man coming across the border from the Mexican colonies to the United States, the customs man said, "Son, do you have any pornography in your suitcase or trunks?" He responded, "No sir, we don't even own a pornograph." It's wonderful to be that pure and naive. We know pornography is addictive and destructive" (Vaughn J. Featherstone, "One Link Still Holds," *Ensign*, Nov. 1999, 13).

What Is Satan's Greatest Threat Today?

"Satan's greatest threat today, is to destroy the family, and make a mockery of the law of chastity and the sanctity of the marriage covenant" (President Harold B. Lee, *Church News*, 19 August 1972, 3).



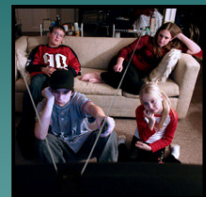
The Plaguing Sin of the Generation

- ◆ "The plaguing sin of this generation is sexual immorality... It permeates our society" (President Ezra Taft Benson, *Ensign*, May 1986, 4).
- ◆ "Sexual immorality is a viper that is striking not only in the world, but in the Church today. Not to admit it is to be dangerously complacent or is like putting one's head in the sand" (President Ezra Taft Benson, *God, Family, Country*, 239-240).

Living in a Bubble

"Recently, a young man commented that if he quit reading books, watching television, seeing movies, reading newspapers and magazines, and going to school, there was a chance he might live a clean life. This explains, in large part, the extent to which the insidious evil of sexual promiscuity has spread . . ."

(President Ezra Taft Benson, *Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson*, 409-410).



Don't Look In The Box

"Hello, Son. You've probably noticed that big cardboard box in the middle of your bedroom floor. As you've heard, it contains a bunch of [pornographic] magazines. Underneath those are hardcore magazines. Underneath those are hardcore magazines containing some of the worst kind of hardcore sexual imagery available in the world, including illegal child pornography- you've probably been curious about what 'hardcore' looks like, haven't you?

"Well, here's the deal: don't look in the box.

Don't Look in the Box

"I'm sorry that it has to be in the middle of the floor- I know you'll trip over it every time you enter the room, which will renew once again your curiosity about what the box contains. Also, I'm sorry about all that mail which comes to you and enticingly describes certain magazine issues which are in the box. Remember: don't look in the box.

Don't Look in the Box

"Your 15 now; old enough to spend significant time home alone as your Mom and I go on various errands and events, and your brother and sister are involved in their activities. Of course, there is no way I would know if you looked in the box. In fact, you could safely remove quite a few issues and keep them elsewhere -I wouldn't notice. But please: don't look in the box.

Don't Look in the Box

"I realize that as a teenager, your sexual drive is stronger now than at any other time in your life. So, not only will curiosity fuel your desire to look in the box, but your hormones will be begging you to do so as well. And once, when you tripped on the box and one issue tumbled out, what you saw as your hurriedly put it back ignited your interest. It took every bit of willpower you had to not flip through the issue in your hands. But no matter what: don't look in the box" (*Internet Guide for Parents*, Family Research Council, Washington, D.C., 10).

What is Pornography?

"Pornography is any material depicting or describing the human body or sexual conduct in a way that arouses sexual feelings. It is distributed through many media, including magazines, books, television, movies, music, and the Internet. It is as harmful to the spirit as tobacco, alcohol, and drugs are to the body. Using pornographic material in any way is a violation of a commandment of God: "Thou shalt not ... commit adultery ... nor do anything like unto it" (**D&C 59:6**). It can lead to other serious sins. Members of the Church should avoid pornography in any form and should oppose its production, distribution, and use.

Pornography is Tragically Addictive

"Pornography is tragically addictive. Like other addictions, it leads people to experiment and to seek more powerful stimulations. If you experiment with it and allow yourself to remain caught in its trap, *it will destroy you, degrading your mind, heart, and spirit. It will rob you of self-respect and of your sense of the beauties of life. It will tear you down and lead you to evil thoughts and possibly evil actions. It will cause terrible damage to your family relationships.*

Pornography Will Ruin Your Life

"Because of the addictive nature of pornography and the harm it can cause to body and spirit, servants of God have repeatedly warned us to shun it. If you are caught in the trap of pornography, stop immediately and seek help. Through repentance, you can receive forgiveness and find hope in the gospel. *Go to your bishop or branch president for counsel on how to overcome your problem, and seek healing through the Atonement of Jesus Christ. Ask the Lord to give you the strength to overcome this terrible addiction*" (*True to the Faith*, Pornography, 117-18).

Pornography is Dangerous and Addictive

"Pornography in all its forms is especially dangerous and addictive. What may begin as a curious indulgence can become a destructive habit that takes control of your life. It can lead you to sexual transgression and even criminal behavior. *Pornography is a poison that weakens your self-control, changes the way you see others, causes you to lose the guidance of the Spirit and can even affect your ability to have a normal relationship with your future spouse*" (*For the Strength of Youth*, 17-19; emphasis added).

By the Numbers

- ◆ "One in five children ages 10-17 [has] received a sexual solicitation over the Internet. ...
- ◆ "Three million of the visitors to adult websites in September 2000 were age 17 or younger.
- ◆ "***Sex is the number 1 topic searched on the Internet***" (NCPCE Online, "Current Statistics," Internet, <http://www.nationalcoalition.org/stat.html>).
- ◆ ***An estimated 400 new porn sites are added to the internet daily*** (source: Victor Cline, Deseret News Article, BYU Conference, 2/8/01).

Avoiding Obscenity

"According to a survey commissioned by the U.S. Department of Justice... 25 percent of surveyed youth reported unwanted exposure to sexually explicit material on the Internet within the past year. Nearly three-fourths occurred while surfing the Web, with the remainder occurring through email or Instant Messaging. The great majority of exposures involved pictures with nudity; and 38 percent even showed people having sex" (*Internet Guide for Parents*, Family Research Council, Washington, D.C., 14).

By the Numbers

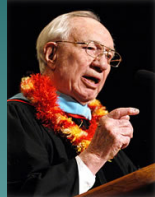
- ◆ Internet Pornography made over a ***billion dollars*** in profits in 2002
 - ◆ 40 Million Americans visit pornographic websites regularly
 - ◆ 33% of men view pornography on the Internet
 - ◆ 20% of men view pornography at work
 - ◆ The only two words entered in search engines more than ***sex*** are ***and*** and ***the***
 - ◆ ***9 out of 10 children*** ages 8 to 16 have been exposed to pornography
- Source: Cameron Sawyer, "Establishing Safeguards Against Offensive Internet Material," 2 October 2003, *BYU Families Under Fire Conference*

More Statistics

- ◆ ***The 12-17 age group is the largest consumer of Internet porn.***
- ◆ More than ***60 percent of companies have disciplined - and more than 30 percent have terminated - employees for inappropriate use of the Internet.*** (Source: The Center for Internet Studies)
- ◆ ***As of September 2000, children were spending 65% more of their time viewing pornography sites than they did on game sites***
- ◆ 85% of kids surveyed said their parents didn't know what they did on the Internet
- ◆ US phone companies estimate 70% of the 500,000 daily calls to dial-a-porn are made by minors who obtain much of their contact information from the Internet
- ◆ An estimated 70% of all pornography ends up in the hands of children

Stay Away from Pornography

"Stay away from pornography! Avoid it as you would a terrible disease. It is a consuming disease. It is addictive. It gets hold of men and grasps them until they can scarcely let it go.... These magazines, these video tapes, these late night programs, you don't need them. They will just hurt you, they won't help you. ***They will destroy you,*** if you persist in looking at them" (President Gordon B. Hinckley, *Teachings of Gordon B. Hinckley*, 463).



Pornography Destroys Individuals and Families

"One of the most damning influences on earth, one that has caused uncountable grief, suffering, heartache, and destroyed marriages is the onslaught of pornography in all of its vicious, corroding, destructive forms. ***Whether it be through the printed page, movies, television, obscene lyrics, the telephone, or on a flickering personal computer screen,***

Pornography Destroys Individuals and Families (Cont.)

"pornography is overpoweringly addictive and severely damaging. ***This potent tool of Lucifer degrades the mind, heart, and the soul of any who use it. All who are caught in its seductive, tantalizing web and remain so, will become addicted to its immoral destructive influence***" (Richard G. Scott, *Ensign*, May 2000, 36).



How Will It Affect Your Mission



Consequences of Pornography

- ◆ It is a perversion of normal love and affection and vulgarizes sacred procreative power
- ◆ Continued involvement changes normal thoughts and attitudes regarding male and female relationships
- ◆ It weakens the users spiritual strength, personal life, marriage, and family relationships
- ◆ It destroys an individuals sense of self-worth
- ◆ It isolates users from their families, society, and the Church
- ◆ Some men have lost everything: their spouse, their children, and their careers.

Physiological Changes

When you view those pictures, and subsequently, have "immoral thoughts," not only is your mind impacted, but your whole system. ***Visual or cognitive concentration on a sexual image immediately begins to release several of the body's powerful hormones, which create a desire for more sexual feelings. Young men, you must not lust; and you must not entertain immoral thoughts.***

Jacob 2: Lessons from Jacob on Sexual Sin

31 For behold, I, the Lord, have seen the sorrow, and heard the mourning of the daughters of my people in the land of Jerusalem, yea, and in all the lands of my people, because of the wickedness and abominations of their husbands.

32 And I will not suffer, saith the Lord of Hosts, that the cries of the fair daughters of this people, which I have led out of the land of Jerusalem, shall come up unto me against the men of my people, saith the Lord of Hosts.

33 For they shall not lead away captive the daughters of my people because of their tenderness, save I shall visit them with a sore curse, even unto destruction; for they shall not commit whoredoms, like unto them of old, saith the Lord of Hosts.

True Doctrine

"Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:28).

"And verily I say unto you, as I have said before, he that looketh on a woman to lust after her, or if any shall commit adultery in their hearts, they shall not have the Spirit, but shall deny the faith and shall fear" (D&C 63:16).

True Doctrine (Cont.)

"For our words will condemn us, yea, all our works will condemn us; we shall not be found spotless; and our thoughts will also condemn us; and in this awful state we shall not dare to look up to our God; and we would fain be glad if we could command the rocks and the mountains to fall upon us to hide us from his presence" (Alma 12:14).

Note: Our thoughts, words, and deeds condemn us!

A Prophet's Plea

"I plead with you boys ... to keep yourselves free from the stains of the world. You must not indulge in sleazy talk at school. You must not tell sultry jokes. You must not fool around with the Internet to find pornographic material. You must not dial a long-distance telephone number to listen to filth. You must not rent videos with pornography of any kind. This salacious stuff simply is not for you. Stay away from pornography as you would avoid a serious disease. It is as destructive. It can become habitual, and those who indulge in it get so they cannot leave it alone. It is addictive.

Prophet's Plea (Cont.)

"It is a five-billion-dollar business for those who produce it. They make it as ... attractive as they know how. It seduces and destroys its victims. It is everywhere. It is all about us. I plead with you young men not to get involved in its use. You simply cannot afford to.

"The girl you marry is worthy of a husband whose life has not been tainted by this ugly and corrosive material" (President Gordon B. Hinckley, *Ensign*, May 1998, 49).

Pornography Worse Than Most Addictions

"Pornographic or erotic stories and pictures are worse than filthy or polluted food. ***The body has defenses to rid itself of unwholesome food. With a few fatal exceptions, bad food will only make you sick but do no permanent harm. In contrast, a person who feasts upon filthy stories or pornographic or erotic pictures and literature records them in this marvelous retrieval system we call a brain. The brain won't vomit back filth. Once recorded, it will always remain subject to recall, flashing its perverted images across your mind and drawing you away from the wholesome things in life***" (Dallin H. Oaks, *Challenges for the Year Ahead* (pamphlet, 1974), 4-5; reprinted in "Things They're Saying," *New Era*, Feb. 1974, 18).

Pornography is “Hyper-addictive”

Pornography is also addictive. It impairs decision-making capacities and it “hooks” its users, drawing them back obsessively for more and more. A man who had been addicted to pornography and to hard drugs wrote me this comparison: **“In my eyes cocaine doesn’t hold a candle to this. I have done both. . . . Quitting even the hardest drugs was nothing compared to [trying to quit pornography]”** (letter of Mar. 20, 2005) (Dallin H. Oaks, “Pornography,” *CR*, April 2005,).

Preventing Internet Pornography

1. An ancient Japanese proverb states, “A problem, clearly identified, is half the solution.”
2. Do not allow your children to view R-rated or even some PG-13 movies or videos.
3. Monitor internet use; have a filter if necessary.
4. The family computer should be in a high traffic area in the home— the monitor should be facing the most “used” part of the room.
5. There should never be a computer, TV, or VCR in your child’s bedroom. Never, Never, Never.
6. Be careful of the shows your children view on Television; minimize TV viewing [Shows like *Desperate Housewives* and *Grey’s Anatomy*].

Preventing Internet Pornography

7. Set time limits on TV Watching and Internet use.
8. Do not let young children surf the internet without supervision.
9. Encourage your children to report instances of running across offensive websites.
10. Do not allow chat rooms and other groups.
11. Do not allow your children to participate in “My Space.” If you don’t know if they have a “My Space” site, find out today.
12. If they have a “Facebook” page, you need to visit it frequently.
13. Eliminate all forms of pornography from your home.



The Lord Still Loves You

“I want you to know this, if you are struggling with this temptation and perhaps you have not quite been able to resist, the Lord still loves you” (Elder Boyd K. Packer, *To Young Men Only*, [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1976]. 4).



The Lord is Waiting for You

“If your life is in disarray and you feel uncomfortable and unworthy to pray because you are not clean, don’t worry. [Heavenly Father] already knows all about that. He is waiting for you to kneel in humility and take the first steps” (Elder Richard G. Scott, “True Friends that Lift,” *Ensign*, November 1988, 77).



We Have a Prophet

“As a young child, I believed we had a prophet and that he spoke the truth; but I’m not sure I understood that the prophet was speaking to me personally. When I was a young wife and mother, my husband spent two years in the air force. We lived in military housing on Long Island, New York. While tending our young children, I often visited with neighbors who had come from all over the country. One day as a neighbor and I were talking about our beliefs, she became curious about what was different about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

We Have a Prophet

I told her briefly about the Restoration, and I explained that the restored Church of Jesus Christ has a living prophet today. This really seemed to pique her interest, and she wanted to know what the prophet had said. As I started to tell her about the Doctrine and Covenants and modern revelation, she said, "But what has he said lately?" I told her about general conference and that the Church had a monthly publication with a message from the prophet. Then she got really interested. I was so embarrassed to admit that I hadn't read the current message. She concluded our conversation by saying, "You mean you have a living prophet and you don't know what he said?" In that situation I hadn't shown what it meant to sustain" (Janette Hales Beckham, "Sustaining the Living Prophets," *Ensign*, May 1996, 84).