

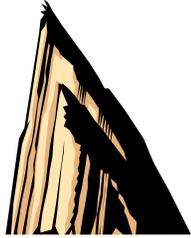
# American Decency Update

American Decency Association  
P.O. Box 202  
Fremont MI 49412

Encouraging Christians to guard their hearts

July 2008

## The slippery slope



Someone inquired recently, "Why do you just fight legal pornography?"

The answer.

We don't just fight legal pornography (Victoria's Secret, Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Edition, Cosmopolitan magazine, "Desperate Housewives" and many similar television shows, etc.) For a number of years in this ministry, our main effort was meeting with prosecutors and urging them to enforce the laws on the books regarding hardcore, illegal pornography.

It is true, however, that in recent years we have spent a sizable percentage of our time dealing with so-called legal pornography. Why?

The Bible urges us to be led by the spirit. "As many as are led by the Spirit they are the sons of

of God." [Romans 8:14]

When we are led by the Spirit of God, we are free from the bondages of pornography because the Spirit is having His way in our lives.

However, in a culture like America's with so much pornography coming at us from such a variety of directions, Satan schemes to draw us away from the Holy Spirit and tempt us into things that are in conflict with pleasing and honoring God.

Usually the temptation most readily available initially is the "legal" pornography.

As an individual begins to be tempted by sexual things of this variety there is a break down of the conscience, a sensual focus as opposed to a God-centered focus, a questioning of God's Word, ignoring more and more God's stirrings within our conscience.

The slippery slope leads to bondage.

With the bombardment of pornography upon us today more and more succumb to the wiles of the devil.

This is accommodation, an acclimation to darkness.

As collectively we tolerate the trash of our day, it becomes legitimized and normative.

As we try to raise our youth in an increasingly pornographic world, the pornography to them is normal. Our families and society are left with the aftermath that comes with pornography: lust, desensitization, accommodation, addiction and acting out.

The Bible says it so well: "I will place no wicked thing before my eyes." [Psalm 101:3a]

It is only as we allow the Spirit of God to shape us and lead us that we will be able to be free of pornographic bondage and the lust of the flesh.

See also: Job 31:1, Matthew 5:6, Heb. 12:14, Eph. 5:3

Why do we fight "legal" pornography? It's the slippery slope.

*"The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* [Romans 6:23]

Pornography destroys here on earth and eternally.

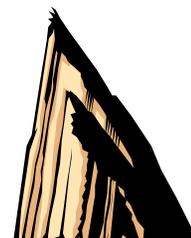
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## Immodesty in the church

*Why does this issue generate so much concern?*

As we progress into the summer months, immodest dress - even in the church - becomes increasingly evident and concerning. Why? Here are a couple of reasons.

(1) Because men are particularly visual, immodesty, even inadvertent immodesty, in church can trigger lustful thoughts.

We are at church to worship a holy, loving God who came to set us free from the bondages of sin. To come to church and have women dressed immodestly is an insult to a holy God and thwarts the feeding of His people.

(2) Immodesty establishes an ungodly example. "If Christians dress that way, it must be okay. I'm going to dress that way too."

(3) For godly mothers, the task of parenting is made that much harder because their daughters may want to wear "what everyone else is wearing."

Parents are cognizant that immodest dress is not pleasing to God, yet when this issue is not addressed,

it creates discouragement, heartache and confusion.

What are some solutions?

One person wrote, "... *The reality is that the majority of women will not dress that way IF their husbands did not approve. ...*"

Another person wrote, "*Sometimes young women don't know that men are visual. They need to be taught by mothers, fathers.*"

Another commented, "... *Our Youth Leader is directed to not only admonish the young people to dress modestly in church, but be an example every place. ...*"

Still another wrote, "... *Pastors need to speak up... Many women and girls no longer realize that it is offensive and sinful... We are all so bombarded with immodesty everywhere we go... it is easy to be lulled into it.....*"

Another, "... *The heart needs to change first! ...*"

And yet another powerful and sad statement, "*Thanks so much for your teaching about modesty! My men's Bible study group talks frequently about controlling our lust, thoughts, and eyes. Yes, the problem and responsibility are ours, but is it really reasonable for*

*the women of the church to make it THIS difficult for us? The only place that I go on a regular basis where I am so overwhelmed by half-clothed women is CHURCH! How backward is that???* I want to run up to the microphone and yell "Yes, you're beautiful, now go home and put on some clothes!"

And lastly another wrote, "... *We all know men are visual and we all know how the Lord made men. .... The Bible says we are not to be stumbling blocks to another person's spiritual walk. Wearing a clingy blouse or a short skirt might be contemporary to the styles of the times, but it is not appropriate to wear to church! Fellowship should be a safe haven for our brothers in Christ. A place where they can feel safe to come in and enjoy friendships with members of both sexes without having to avert their gaze so as to avoid lusting after a sister in Christ.*

*Ask a mature Christian sister if you are unsure if a particular article of clothing is appropriate or not."*

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