

**Consider SERVICE<sup>®</sup>**

If you look at porn, you are arrogant. The arrogance of viewing porn is obvious when you consider how selfishly you're using your time. Every second you spend looking at porn is a second you cannot spend serving others. While you're gorging yourself on images of naked women, you're not buying flowers for your wife, cutting the grass of a sick neighbor, buying a meal for an elderly couple, helping your parents with work around the house, inviting a coworker to dinner to share the gospel with him, teaching your child about the Bible, cleaning the dishes after dinner, playing hide-and-seek with your kids, or visiting a church member in the hospital. To such selfish people, God urges, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others" (Philippians 2:3-4).

Paul is concerned about ambitions motivated by selfish desires. He is concerned that we not become driven by vain conceit. He is concerned that we do nothing out of arrogance or pride. Paul commends Christians to combat these self-consuming attitudes with humility—valuing others above oneself. Paul indicates

that the way to do this is by radically shifting your focus away from your own interests to the interests of others.

Stop and think about this for a moment. Have you ever considered how extraordinarily practical this counsel is? Paul doesn't just say, "Be humble!" He tells us how to cultivate humility—by learning to prioritize other people's interests above our own.

When your alarm goes off in the morning, you probably start cycling through all the things you have to do that day: take a shower, have your devotional time, get to work, get to school, meet with the boss, get the car serviced, catch up with a friend, finish a project, get home and eat dinner, mow the lawn, and do some work on your computer. Our lives are filled with important things we *need* to be doing, and our to-do lists fill up our available time. We grow irritated when a friend calls with a question that takes time to answer, or when an aged parent asks us for help with something at the house, or when a child's question interrupts our concentration. We are entirely focused on pursuing our own interests.

In the midst of such a welter of activity Paul gives this very practical exhortation: look not only to your own interests but look beyond

**your own interests to the interests of others. Don't cycle through your to-do list like it's the only thing that matters.** God also wants you to consider the interests of other people. What on your wife's plate can you help with? Are your parents struggling in an area where you can assist? Is a coworker under the gun and in need of your cooperation, even though it's not in your job description? Could a friend borrow your car while theirs is in the shop, even though you had places you wanted to go?

Serving others is part of the daily life of every Christian, but it is particularly urgent for men who habitually look at pornography. Looking at porn doesn't affect just your own life. It's not a victimless crime, because instead of serving others you are inflicting harm on them. Rather than serving your spouse (or future spouse), you are damaging the purity and sanctity of that relationship. Instead of loving those who love you, you are storing up pain for the time when they discover all you've been doing in secret. The antidote to this selfishness involves more than just avoiding pornography. True repentance means replacing pornography with something else, something that honors God and demonstrates love to others. **You must begin humbly looking to the interests of others and seeking ways to serve them.**