

We have seen that that the Bible defines God-honoring sex as good, wholesome, true, commanded, and having clear boundaries. We have acknowledged that this creates tremendous freedom in a marriage. It is a freedom to explore, to discover, to play, to say Yes or No or Never Again. But it is a freedom that may need to be sanctified, to be made holy, especially for those who have had their understanding of sex shaped by pornography. We probably all need some detox in the bedroom.

Magazines and advice websites (Christian and non-Christian) are full of questions about what constitutes acceptable sexual behavior. When I read those questions, it is not difficult to know which were written by people whose appetites have been shaped by porn. It's the questions that essentially ask, "Is it okay if my wife and I play out this particular pornographic act?"

We must return to this point: The things that supposedly arouse porn stars are very likely *not* the things that will arouse your wife or make her feel loved and treasured. They are far more likely to make her feel demeaned—turned into some convenient object instead of a precious

bride. Set out some of the positive things we see in the Bible about sex, and it's not hard to recognize that pornography demonstrates the opposite.

- Sex is tender. Is there tenderness in pornography? Or violence?
- Sex is sweet. Is there sweetness in pornography? Or degradation?
- Sex is selfless and giving. But again, pornography is all about conquest, about having my most base and selfish needs met. Right now.
- Sex has boundaries. Pornography scoffs at boundaries. It teaches that anything I desire is acceptable merely because I desire it.

Always remember that most pornography is designed to incite lust in a particular kind of person—one already calloused against what is good and pure. Porn is created to arouse the hardened heart, not the tender heart.

## **The Right Questions**

So the question remains. How is a husband to determine what he ought to do with his wife in the bedroom? He has to do *something*. What should he do and not do?