

## Effects of Pornography on Marriage\*

*“You have heard that the law of Moses says, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust in his eye has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”*  
 Matthew 5:27-28

**Pornography is harmful to individuals and to marriages. Social science research documents the negative effects:**

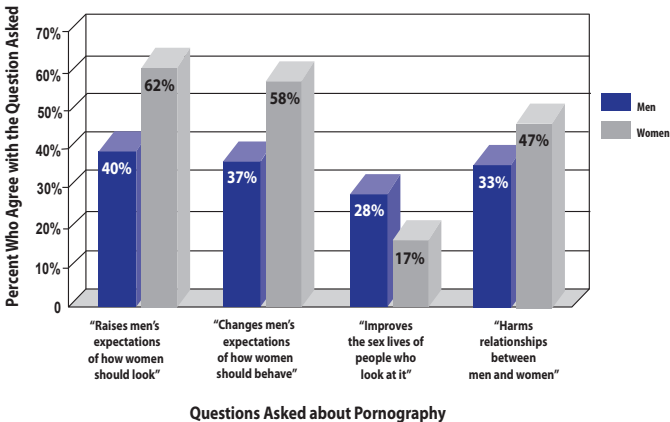
- Wives whose husbands view pornography often begin to feel unattractive and may become severely depressed. The distress level in some wives may be so high as to require clinical treatment for trauma.
- Wives experience decreased intimacy from husbands who use pornography.
- Prolonged exposure to pornography fosters dissatisfaction with, and even distaste for, a spouse’s affection.
- Pornography is increasingly correlated with divorce, and according to the only study on the issue, in 56 percent of divorce cases at least one spouse was obsessively interested in pornography.
- Forty percent of husbands who are addicted to pornography eventually lose their spouse.
- Most men and many women have a false view of the effect of pornography

**Pornography undermines a man’s capacity to be a good husband on many levels. Do your sons know that pornography will rob them of their capacity for marriage? Do your daughters?**

The accompanying graph shows the disparity between men’s and women’s concern regarding pornography. Women feel slighted in relationships, perhaps more than men realize. Mistrust can arise and marriages can suffer greatly. Education on pornography’s destructive power is a must for every adolescent.

**Effects of Pornography on Relationships**

Source: Harris Interactive, 2006



For links to the research behind these statements, please visit [www.marri.us/one-pagers/](http://www.marri.us/one-pagers/)

\*It bears emphasizing that these patterns hold for the groups involved, not for all the individuals who make up each group. There is naturally a wide variation among individuals.

# THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

ILLUSTRATING THE WAY GOD MADE MAN



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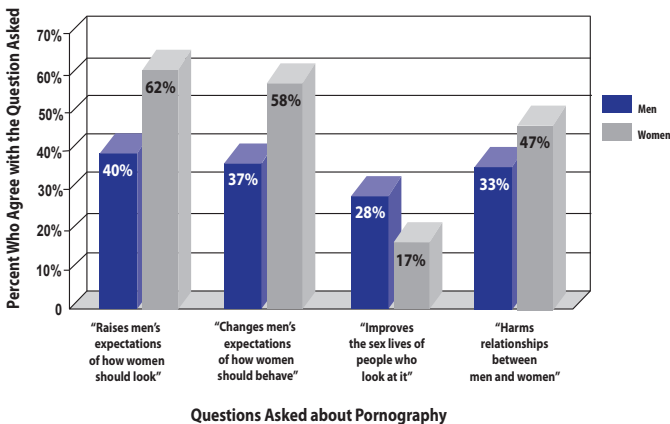
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