

From the guys' single sexuality talk...

What if I've tried to stop porn and I keep falling?

Never before has porn been as accessible as it is now. And never before have so many Christians been robbed of their joy in Christ, their intimacy in relationships, their power in ministry – all because of looking at porn, either very regularly or from time to time. I know of several married couples that have divorced primarily because of porn habits in the men. You may ask, 'But why do Christian married men battle with porn when they could have sex?' The answer is that porn is a fantasy world where you are a sexual god, and sexual goddesses throw themselves at you. It is a world of unreality that seems so much more exciting than the real world of human, loving sex. The tragedy is that a taste for imaginary, unholy sex makes it difficult to enjoy real-life, holy sex.

Tragically, the latest statistics from the USA tell us that pornography has radically crippled the church. 50% of Christian men regularly indulge in porn. We are God's army, called to advance his kingdom and charge the gates of hell. But we will never do this whilst half of us have our pants around our ankles! And it's not just the men mind you – the same statistics report that 20% of Christian women battle with pornography too.

It absolutely must stop! For the love of Christ, it must stop! Do whatever is needed to break free from sin's tentacles. Refuse Internet access at home or on your phone if you must. If you must use the Internet, then set up an accountability system through www.x3watch.com (this fantastic tool sends a list of all the websites you visit to a chosen person who keeps you accountable).

Get an accountability friend (in your home group?) who you can talk to if you fall. The power of sin is in its secrecy, so confessing your sins and struggles is really powerful. Read James 5:16. Also visit www.xxxchurch.com for more help.

A bit confused - is going to nightclubs okay?

Good question. As there is simply no mention of night clubs in the Bible, when asking leaders this question you should not be asking for permission to do something but rather asking for their perspective. It is good to get perspective on these things and then to make a judgment call with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Nightclubs in themselves are not necessarily wrong and many people like to go simply to dance; they claim there is nowhere else to go out and dance. With this in mind, people who want to dance often go to a club and that seems ok.

Here are some thoughts and cautions to consider when thinking nightclubs:

- **Clubs are synonymous with unbiblical actions.** Some of the main activities of clubbers are: random hooking up with another guy/girl, drunkenness, drugs, and promiscuity. For this reason I would not want

clubbing to be a main weekly social activity as it's fundamental activities are usually of a nature that are contrary to Bible's teachings of relationship and God honouring conduct.

- **Clubs are not conducive to building quality friendships.** With all the noise, the chaos and the drunkenness many people who go with good intentions to be a positive influence on their friends, find that those friends who they wanted to influence seldom experience that and sometimes do not even remember. There are many other settings more conducive to building friendships that can be real and meaningful, where one can have a chance to deepen conversation and also have fun.
- **Clubs can be full of temptations.** Many new Christians come from a lifestyle of regular clubbing and so clubs have associations with many of the temptations that they are now trying to avoid. Some of these temptations are excessive drinking, random hooking up with another guy/girl, drug addictions and others. When the sights, sounds and smells of a certain place are experienced our bodies have the tendency to want to act according to memory, making it difficult to fight off old habits. We should be careful not only for ourselves but also other people who may have these struggles. Don't place yourself in positions where temptation is intensified. It's important to be thoughtful about other people and their personal battles. Some people battle with drinking, some with past drug addictions, some with promiscuous habits, and more. We are not caring when we place our friends or ourselves in circumstances that could make their life more difficult. Read Romans 14:19-21.

Be careful when clubbing and ask yourself with honesty why you want to club. Then if you keep it up, be thoughtful about your friends and the example that you set for those around you. You can gain and lose respect really quickly in a club. Read your bible, find out what is honouring to God and do only that.
