

PT 551: A MISSIONAL CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO PORNOGRAPHY
FRIDAY NIGHT, 10/20, 6:00 – 9:00 PM;
and Saturday, 10/21/2017, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
ONE-CREDIT SEMINAR, FALL 2017

Last revised: 8/16/2017

**Biblical Seminary exists to produce missional Christian leaders-
men and women who incarnate the story of Jesus with humility and authenticity and who
communicate the story with fidelity to Scripture, appreciation of the Christian tradition,
and sensitivity to the needs and aspirations of postmodern culture.**

PROFESSOR

R. Todd Mangum, PhD

Les & Kay Clemens Professor of Missional Theology

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Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday afternoons (and/or email for an appointment)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In pursuit of a theological and ministry framework for healthy, godly formation and in pursuit of godly habits of heart, mind, and body in matters of human sexuality, this seminar engages the challenge and affront of pornography.

PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE PROFESSOR

“Pornography is what the end of the world looks like,” says Robert Jensen, professor of journalism at the University of Texas at Austin (see <https://goodmenproject.com/featured-content/pornography-is-what-the-end-of-the-world-looks-like/>). Apparently, this thesis has given rise to a line of T-shirts insouciantly proclaiming, “It’s not the end of the world; it’s just porn.”

So, which is it? As pornography becomes more and more mainstreamed in our hypersexualized culture, is Christian opposition to pornography just the latest instance of puritanical prudes overreacting to something the culture at large has discovered is pleasurable harmless? Or does pornography represent an insidious scourge that really can ruin your life?

I’m convinced it’s a scourge and really dangerous, as dangerous as heroin or crack. But, beyond the “bad for you” warnings, what I really find tragic is that pornography takes a good gift from God, and ruins it, and exploits it, and makes it an instrument of abuse, degradation, and oppression.

I look forward to joining you in examining biblical teaching, our culture, and our ministry context, and joining in the conversation with solid research and experts in the field (including those who will be joining us as guest speakers) to address responsibly and effectively the incursion of a corruptive force that truly is taking over our culture.

We really can help. I am eager and anxious (in both senses of the term!) to see what the Lord might do with our weekend devoted to this topic.

-- R. Todd Mangum

PROGRAM GOALS AND COURSE OBJECTIVES

COURSE GOALS

This course will enable you to:

1. Articulate a solid, nuanced summary of biblical teaching in response to pornography and our “pornified culture.”
2. Be alerted to the nature and the degree of the challenge of pornography – and be familiarized with dynamics of causes of pornography consumption and with the dynamics of who is affected, what is the statistical likelihood of pornography use, and exactly how and why pornography use can take on destructive, addictive qualities.
3. Stimulate ideas for an effective ministerial and missional response to the detrimental effects of pornography on both men and women.
4. Be put in touch with means and resources for addressing (precluding, arresting, reversing, and overcoming) pornography’s allure and entanglement – for yourself, your family, and those you minister to and/or alongside.
5. Adopt a pathway out of pornography and onto a path of more healthy sexuality, whether married or single.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

Grading for this course is pass/fail. The primary requirement is to participate well in the class seminar Friday night – Saturday (10/20-21). There is one booklet required for reading – with an abundance of resources provided for your ministry (or personal) consideration, interest, and/or help.

Requirement for a passing grade is summarized in this chart:

Requirement:	Means of Assessment:	Grade value
Thoughtful class participation in class sessions, October 20-21, 2017	Class attendance roll; observation of engagement	50%
Reading of booklet by Phil Monroe, <i>When You Love an Addict: Wisdom and Direction</i> (Greensboro, NC: New Growth Press, 2014, 32 pp.)	Incorporate mention of reading the book and insights gained in the paper (below)	10%
1-3 page paper (submitted thru course website): 1) Theological, ministerial, and/or personal insights you gained through the seminar; 2) Questions and/or disagreements you (still) have in response to content you engaged; and 3) Assessment of overall value of the seminar; what improvement you would suggest and/or recommend for this or other future seminar	Paper submitted through the course website; Due Friday, October 27	40%

READING AND MATERIALS

NOTE: Hyperlinks to Amazon.com are placed here for your convenience. Please be aware that there may be other websites (by publishers or by other ebook publishers) that may sell the same item for cheaper prices. Please shop around! In addition, some sites offer ebook rental prices for a limited number of weeks. These may also be cost effective. Just be sure to buy the right edition and recognize some of the smaller sellers may not deliver books in a timely fashion.

Required Text
(worth 10%)

Phil Monroe, [*When You Love an Addict: Wisdom and Direction*](#) (Greensboro, NC: New Growth Press, 2014, 32 pp.)

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS AND HELPFUL RESOURCES

Karen Boyle, ed. [*Everyday Pornography*](#) (Philadelphia: Routledge, 2010).

Stephen Arterburn and Fred Stoecker, [*Every Man's Battle: Winning the War on Sexual Temptation One Victory at a Time*](#) (Colorado Springs, CO: WaterBrook Press, 2000).

Patrick Carnes, [*Out of the Shadows: Understanding Sexual Addiction*](#) (Center City, MN: Hazelden Foundation, 2001).

_____, [*Contrary to Love: Helping the Sexual Addict*](#) (Center City, MN: Hazelden Foundation, 1994).

Tim Chester, [*Closing the Window: Steps to Living Porn Free*](#) (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2010).

John D. Foubert, [*How Pornography Harms: What today's teens, young adults, parents, and pastors need to know*](#) (Bloomington, IN: LifeRich Publishing, 2017).

Robert Jensen, [*Getting Off: Pornography and the End of Masculinity*](#) (New York: South End Press, 2007).

Wendy and Larry Maltz, [*The Porn Trap: The Essential Guide to Overcoming Problems Caused by Pornography*](#) (New York: Harper, 2009).

Pamela Paul, [*Pornified: How Pornography Is Damaging Our Lives, Our Relationships, and Our Families*](#) (New York: Henry Holt and Co., 2005).

David Powlison, [*Pornography: Slaying the dragon*](#) (Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 1999).

Harry Schaumburg, [*Undeified: Redemption from Sexual Sin, Restoration for Broken Relationships*](#) (Chicago: Moody Press, 2009).

William M. Struthers, [*Wired for Intimacy: How pornography hijacks the male brain*](#) (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2009).

Gary Wilson, [*Your Brain on Porn: Internet Pornography and the Emerging Science of Addiction*](#) (Margate, Kent, England: Commonwealth Publishing, 2015).

COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	IN CLASS
Friday night, October 20 6:00 – 9:00 pm	Lecturer/Session Leader: R. Todd Mangum, PhD Les & Kay Clemens Professor of Missional Theology, Biblical Seminary Topic: Pornography as a Theological Issue and Missional Challenge
Saturday, October 21 Morning Session: 8:30 AM 9:00 - 11:30 AM	Welcome and Introduction of today’s speakers and session leaders Lecturer/Session leader: Kristyn Komarnicki Director of Dialog at Evangelicals for Social Action, well known speaker and author on the subject of relational wholeness, sexual justice, and sexual exploitation (see: http://www.evangelicalsforsocialaction.org/about-esa/who-we-are/kristyn-komarnicki/) Topic: Pornography as a Justice Issue
LUNCH	
Afternoon Session: 1:00 – 3:30 pm	Lecturer, Session leader: Phil Monroe, PsyD Taylor Visiting Professor of Counseling and Psychology, Biblical Seminary, and Director of Trauma Healing for the American Bible Society Topic: Pornography as a Psychological and Sociological Issue, and Issue of Personal Formation and Health (especially marital health)
3:30 – 4:30 PM	Q/A with all three speakers/session leaders

GRADING SYSTEM

This course is a pass or fail course, with the grade appearing on student transcripts as “P” or “F.”