

(CA2) EMAPW 7 – Pornography is Meeting a Need in Your Life Part 1**Theme music**

FOSTER: Bob had been in the ministry a few years when a godly older man came for a visit. At the end of their meal, the man asked Bob if there was any area in his life that needed to change. Reluctantly, Bob answered, *“I want to know why I keep wanting to look at pornography. I know it’s wrong, but the desire won’t go away.”* The old man responded, *“the next time you’re tempted, do these 2 things. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you stop. And ask the Holy Spirit what need is being met by the Pornography?”* “Need?” Bob thought. “Pornography is meeting a need?”

Welcome to Champions Arise. I’m Foster Braun and I’m with Kent Darcie. Today, we continue our series on men and pornography by identifying needs pornography may be filling in our life—which is why it’s so hard to stop. But we’d like to warn parents that, though we won’t speak in a sexually explicit way, you should move children away from where they can hear us. With that said, we’ll be right back on Champions Arise.

Music Theme in

FOSTER: Kent, I guess it makes sense that pornography is meeting a need, but for some reason I’m struggling with understanding that.

KENT: Well Foster, you’re probably not alone. I’m sure there are listeners that are thinking, “I’m just a guy. Guys have lust, and pornography helps get rid of it.”

FOSTER: But it’s not that simple.

KENT: Not usually. In fact, let’s just try something. In our last program, I asked listeners to repeat a prayer after me and I want to just read the first part of that prayer and see how we respond.

FOSTER: Okay.

KENT: Here’s the prayer.

“Lord Jesus, thank You for dying for me and for Your death, burial, and resurrection on my behalf.”

Most of us have no problem with that.

FOSTER: I'd agree with that.

KENT: Next. I acknowledge again Your lordship over me and rejoice that I am part of Your family because of Your finished work on the cross

FOSTER: Amen and amen.

KENT: Okay. Next. "In Your name, Lord Jesus, I renounce all sinful activities connected with pornography and lust in my life."

FOSTER: That's a pretty powerful statement.

KENT: It is. And it should be liberating. But renounce is the key word. Renounce means "*to formally declare one's abandonment of a claim, a right, or a possession.*" Basically, we're saying, in the name of Jesus Christ, I declare that I will no longer engage in or support lust or pornography in my life.

No more magazines, no more pictures, no more lusting over women in the street or at work, no more affairs, no more looking at lingerie magazines. No more lust.

FOSTER: And we're committing to that in Jesus name.

KENT: That's right. And I guarantee you that there are men listening, who love the Lord, but are thinking, I can't say that. And Ecclesiastes 5 verse 5 says, "*It is better not to make a vow than to make one and not fulfill it.*"

FOSTER: And they want to...

KENT: But it's meeting a need.

FOSTER: We are definitely going to talk more about this, but I want to remind our listeners that you are listening to Champions Arise. I'm Foster Braun and Kent Darcie is with me. We are in a series that is discussing men and pornography. Today we are talking about pornography meeting a need so it makes it more difficult to quit. Again, I warn parents that this conversation isn't appropriate for children—even though we won't talk in a sexually explicit way. So Kent, how do we know what need pornography is meeting?

KENT: First we ask God's Holy Spirit. Jesus said in John 14 verse 26, "*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*" Ask the Holy Spirit.

FOSTER: And is there anything else we can do?

KENT: Yes. There are five areas of need we may be trying to fill with pornography. And don't underestimate the power of these needs. They've kept many of our listeners in spiritual chains for years.

FOSTER: So what is the first area?

KENT: We use pornography as our refuge.

FOSTER: What do you mean, pornography is our refuge?

KENT: Let's use what happened to Bob, who you mentioned at the beginning of this program as an example. Bob did ask the Holy Spirit what need was being met and the Holy Spirit revealed his worry about money.

FOSTER: Interesting.

KENT: More interesting was Bob asked what worrying over money had to do with pornography. The Holy Spirit reminded Bob of Psalm 62 verse 8 which says, "*Trust in Him (God) at all times O people, pour out your hearts to Him, God is a refuge for us.*" Then the Holy Spirit whispered to Bob's soul, "*You are making pornography your refuge, your safe place, not God. You are seeking refuge in pornography to take away the worry you have over having enough money, but Bob, God wants to be your refuge.*"

FOSTER: That's so powerful Kent. It reminds me of Psalm 46 verse 1, "*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.*" Pornography is trouble and God needs to be our refuge.

KENT: Yes. Another verse is Philippians 4 verse 19. It says, "*My God will supply all your needs.*" We don't need to look anywhere else but at God when we face financial difficulties. God will always be our safe place.

FOSTER: So what is the second need we try to fill with pornography?

KENT: The need for respect. This is a big one. Ephesians 5 verse 33 says. "*However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*" The need for respect is created by God, but too often men feel disrespected by women. I hear this all the time from men. And this is absolutely not an excuse to use pornography, but it is a need that can go unfulfilled, and pornography promises to meet that need.

FOSTER: But it doesn't meet that need.

KENT: Well...here's the problem. It does, but in a counterfeit way. I've heard flattery described as false respect. Think about it, the women are always there when you want. They never reject you, you can pick from hundreds of women that are all there just for you. In your mind, you are the mega lover, the ultimate woman's man. But it's all a lie.

Proverbs 7 verses 25 – 27 talk about the woman you're lusting over. It says, *"Don't let your hearts stray away toward her. Don't wander down her wayward path. For she has been the ruin of many; many men have been her victims. Her house is the road to the grave. Her bedroom is the den of death."*

FOSTER: So that computer screen or magazine, for example, is the den of death according to the Bible.

KENT: Yes. It feels like the respect we need and crave as men, but it's a trap. And one other important point. We can't say, "well, my wife doesn't respect me so I can use pornography." No. We can NEVER use others as an excuse to sin.

FOSTER: I hope this is as eye opening for our listeners as this has been for me. So two needs men try to fill with pornography are the need for refuge and the need for respect. What's the third need?

KENT: The need for relationship. We need others to love, and to love us, but pornography only pretends to do this.

FOSTER: So pornography can be used as a substitute for relationships?

KENT: Yes. Here's an example. There was a man who was 56 years old and shortly after he retired, he met with a Christian friend he hadn't seen for many years. As they talked he shared his regret that he never got married and had children. But as they continued to talk, he shared that he was enslaved to pornography.

FOSTER: Oh my!

KENT: He would spend four to six hours a day looking at pornography. And this is the point. His friend told him, "The women in the pornography are your wife, your lover, and your mistress...You don't have time for a real woman. All your energy is being consumed with your fake, electronic women."

FOSTER: That's so sad. Why would a man do that?

KENT: It fills a need. And something else; we all try to avoid rejection. That's why peer pressure is so effective, because many of us, male and female, will do anything to avoid rejection. But, Foster, what are the three needs we've covered so far?

FOSTER: We use pornography to fill the need for a refuge, or safe place, for us. We use pornography to fill our need for respect, and we use pornography to fill our need for relationships.

KENT: A refuge is a safe place where we are not rejected. And with respect, Men often interpret disrespect as rejection of who they are as a man. Yet you know who gives us the most respect?

FOSTER: Who?

KENT: God Himself. He respects you and me enough to allow us to choose whether we will follow Him or reject Him.

FOSTER: I never thought of it that way. He really does respect us.

KENT: Yes, but we turn to pornography instead. And we also do this in relationships—again, in part, to avoid rejection. I think about the 56-year-old man we just talked about. He didn't have to face the possible rejection of a woman who didn't want to go out with him, or rejected his love. It was safer to live in the world of women who never reject him. But pornography may seem like a place where we'll never be rejected, but in reality, we are rejecting all God holds dear. Himself, our spouse, our family, friends. In rejecting them, we are not loving them as Christ loves us.

FOSTER: Kent, this has been a fascinating discussion and we're only half way through the six needs. Let's continue this discussion in our next program, but can you review where we've been today?

KENT: Sure. Today we discussed that men struggle to quit pornography because it is filling a need that God can fill in a healthy way. The needs we reviewed today were the need for a refuge, respect, and relationships. In our next program, we'll look at the need of rewards, revenge, and redemption.

FOSTER: Thanks Kent. My listening friend. I hope you've taken today's program seriously, and encourage you to pray about which need pornography is filling in your life. We'll be right back.

Program Close

FOSTER: Thank you for listening to Champions Arise where men are equipped and strengthened to meet their God-given potential. Today we reviewed three needs we use pornography to fill. You can learn more about men and pornography by listening to other programs in this series on our website championsarise.org.

I'm Foster Braun with Kent Darcie. I hope you'll join us as we finish our discussion on the needs we use pornography to fill in our next program. Until then, thank you for listening to Champions Arise. May God mold you into the man He knows you can be.

Closing ID

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