

## (CA2) EMAPW 11 – Pornography: The Need for Buddies

### Theme music

**FOSTER:** “Tiny” was 6 feet 6 inches tall and weighed 280 pounds. *“I like my food,”* he said. *“I don’t want to fast, ever!”* Tiny was part of a group of 4 college students who were struggling with using pornography. They committed to quit using pornography together, but also agreed that if any one of them fell, all of them would eat no food for 24 hours. “Tiny” agreed to the commitment, but his final words were, *“I’ll do it. But if one of you blows it, I’m going to smash you!”* (laughter) How would you like to be one of those guys?

Welcome to Champions Arise. I’m Foster Braun and I’m with Kent Darcie. We are presenting a series of programs that are addressing the issue of Men and Pornography. Today we are going to discuss the importance of accountability partners, but will also look at what a good accountability partner does. I want to advise parents that this program will be speaking about sexual issues that may be inappropriate for children to hear. Though we will not speak graphically, parents, please protect young minds by moving the children out of hearing range of this program. Thanks, and we’ll continue with Champions Arise right after this.

### *Music Theme in*

**FOSTER:** Kent, how would you like to be one of three guys that could risk facing Tiny’s wrath?

**KENT:** That is really intimidating. And sometimes when talking about accountability for repetitive sins, the question is asked, “is fear a proper motive to keep us from sinning?”

**FOSTER:** I’ve heard some say yes, but it should be the fear of God, not man. I’ve heard others say no, because we should quit sinning out of our love for God. Still others say both are true.

**KENT:** I’ve heard those opinions too. However, I think accountability, fear-based or not, is important because in our fallen, sinful state, trying to overcome sin on our own is rarely successful.

**FOSTER:** That’s been my experience too. But what makes a good accountability partner?

**KENT:** Let’s start with four primary qualities we want in an accountability partner. One quality is the accountability partner should be a man (unless it’s your wife—which is pretty rare.) You don’t want to increase your vulnerability to sin by having a female accountability partner.

**FOSTER:** That makes sense.

**KENT:** You also want an accountability partner that is honest and vulnerable. That means you are being open and honest, but so are they. There is no pretending they don't have problems, hiding, or deceiving.

**FOSTER:** Okay. What is the second quality of an accountability partner?

**KENT:** They are available when temptations come. When you are tempted, you want someone you can contact right away. Some people believe you should have more than one.

**FOSTER:** How many more than one?

**KENT:** You want enough that if your primary accountability partner is unreachable, you can contact someone else. That might be 2 men. It might be 7. They don't need to know everything that is going on, like your primary accountability partner does, but they should be able to talk you back to biblical obedience when you're tempted.

**FOSTER:** And what is the third core quality we're looking for in an accountability partner?

**KENT:** They should be trustworthy—able to keep a secret. Proverbs 11 verse 13 says, "*A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.*" If you hear a man gossip or slander or share things about another man that should have been kept secret, he is not a person you'd want to consider for an accountability partner.

**FOSTER:** And before we hear the fourth core quality of an accountability partner, I want to remind listeners that you are listening to Champions Arise. I'm Foster Braun and Kent Darcie is with me. Today we're continuing our series on men and pornography, by going over the qualities a good accountability partner should have. Again, because of the sexual nature of this conversation I ask parents to consider moving their children to a place that they can't hear this conversation.

So Kent, what is the fourth core quality an accountability partner should have?

**KENT:** He is teachable.

**FOSTER:** Wait. Don't you mean the man that needs to be accountable has to be teachable?

**KENT:** Both need to be teachable.

**FOSTER:** I'm not sure I understand.

**KENT:** As Christians we are always learning, right?

**FOSTER:** Right.

**KENT:** And, as Christians, we have God’s Holy Spirit that guides us and reveals God’s truth through the Bible, right?

**FOSTER:** Yes.

**KENT:** So you want an accountability partner that is in God’s word, has an active prayer life, and is seeking to be more Christ-like every day...which means he is teachable—always learning more about God.

**FOSTER:** Okay. I see now. That makes a lot of sense. So we want an accountability partner with the core qualities of being honest, available when we need, trustworthy, and teachable. Are there other qualities we’d want him to have?

**KENT:** Yes. And these apply to your accountability partner or a men’s group. It’s important that they don’t condemn you if you relapse into sin. If you mess up, you don’t want someone telling you how bad you are.

**FOSTER:** Satan is already doing that!

**KENT:** That’s right. If sin occurs, you want someone who will grieve with you. We feel horrible when we mess up and the Romans 12:15 says, “*mourn with those who mourn.*”

**FOSTER:** What other qualities do you want in an accountability partner or group?

**KENT:** You want them to ask the hard questions. For example, there was a man in a Bible study with four other guys. One day he confessed that another man had expressed interest in him sexually, and he was tempted. He asked them to pray for him, and they probably did. But no one ever asked him how he was doing after that.

**FOSTER:** Sometimes I think we’re afraid or embarrassed to ask the tough questions.

**KENT:** And I understand that. But this man was asking for help. Someone should have called him during the week to see how he was doing. And someone definitely should have asked him how he was handling the temptation when they met for Bible study.

**FOSTER:** These are good things to know about accountability partners. What other qualities are necessary?

**KENT:** This is an important one. Your accountability partner should always point you back to Jesus. And remind you of the promises of forgiveness and hope Jesus always offers us.

**FOSTER:** That makes sense, but wouldn't all Christian men do that?

**KENT:** You'd think they would. But I heard about a man who confessed to another Christian man that he was addicted to looking at pornography. This Christian man told him he didn't have a problem with pornography.... because he had a mistress.

**FOSTER:** You're kidding!

**KENT:** No I'm not. And then the man said, "You should try it!"

**FOSTER:** That's incredible!

**KENT:** It is. Too many Christian men want to have the Bible and their fleshly ways too. You want a man or men's group that always points you to the truths of the Bible. That includes obedience and grace. But also, you want a man or group that will not pretend your sin isn't sin. **And** they will help you see the future consequences of your sin.

**FOSTER:** But without condemnation.

**KENT:** That's right.

**FOSTER:** Can you give us an example of what that might look like?

**KENT:** Man called Steve hadn't looked at pornography for six months and one night he looked at some nude pictures of women and self-gratified. At their next meeting, Steve's accountability partner asked him how he was doing and Steve confessed. His friend said how sorry he was for him and reminded Steve that Jesus offers forgiveness and grace when we fall.

**FOSTER:** Okay so far.

**KENT:** Then Steve's friend would ask him what was happening before he looked at the pictures. Was he stressed, tired, alone, bored, under the influence, or coming off a spiritual high? Did Steve cross a boundary, like using his computer in a hidden area instead of out in the open?

**FOSTER:** We talked about those areas of vulnerability a couple of programs ago.

**KENT:** Yes. But then Steve's friend looked him in the eye and said, "*Steve, you know that when you start looking at pornography, its' very difficult for you to stop. The Bible is very clear, Galatians 6 verse 7 says, "whatever a man sows, that he will also reap." Looking at pornography again is going to start you lusting after other women at work and putting unfair sexual demands on your wonderful wife. Is that really what you want to happen? I'm going to call you tonight and pray with you so we can work together to stop Satan's attacks on you. Don't forget we're in a spiritual war and we're together in this battle.*"

**FOSTER:** Kent, it would be so encouraging to have a friend like that.

**KENT:** Yes. It is God working through men to help each other, but there is one thing that is very important to add. When the accountability partner asked Steve how things were going in his sexual purity, Steve confessed. If Steve had said, "I'm doing fine," what should the accountability partner had done?

**FOSTER:** Normally we'd say "good", and move on, but we would have missed his relapse, wouldn't we?

**KENT:** Yes, and we often do. That's why the last question an accountability partner asks is "*Are you lying to me?*"

**FOSTER:** Wow. That's powerful. It's okay to ask that?

**KENT:** If you've been asked to be an accountability partner or you're part of an men's accountability group, it is essential that you ask that. "*Are you lying to me?*" **First**, it tells us that you're serious. It takes a real man to look you in the eye and ask you that. **Second**, when you're tempted to lust or look at pornography, hopefully, you'll know you can't hide it. You're going to be asked. And because of that, you take the escape from temptation God always provides according to 1 Corinthians 10 verse 13.

**FOSTER:** Thank God that he provides those escapes.

**KENT:** Amen

**FOSTER:** Kent, this look at the need for accountability partners and what a good one looks like has been very helpful for me, and I'm sure our listeners as well. Can you review what we've covered today?

**KENT:** Accountability partners should have four core, or primary, qualities. They must be honest, available to you when you need them, trustworthy—they keep your conversations confidential, and they are teachable. Accountability partners and men’s groups should not condemn each other when men fall, grieve with those who fall, ask tough questions, always point each other to Jesus and the word of God, never make light of sin, discuss the future consequences of the sin, pray with you because of the spiritual warfare, and ask, “*are you lying to me?*” when they get updates on your journey toward sexual purity.

**FOSTER:** Thanks Kent. 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 discussed the importance of having an accountability partner and the qualities a good accountability partner or group have. You can learn more about men and pornography by listening to other programs in this series on our website [championsarise.org](http://championsarise.org).

I’m Foster Braun with Kent Darcie. We will finish our series on men and pornography 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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