

The Daily Evergreen

Porn poses Christian problems

Upcoming debate highlights Jesus' views on sexual issues

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Think of the kittens. Despite the popular quote, there is no statistical evidence showing a correlation between masturbation and kitten deaths.

But the Christian porn website XXXChurch.com explains the story as an eye-opening way of introducing issues of sexuality in a Christian context. One of the website's founders, Craig Gross, will speak in a debate with famous porn star Ron Jeremy in Pullman on Feb. 5.

The quote, accompanying the image of a kitten chased by two Domo-kun, was around long before Gross' site's comparison. It was created in 2002 by a member of Fark.com, and later circulated through hotlinking and forwarding e-mails.

XXXChurch.com, or the so-called No. 1 Christian Porn Site, uses the famous image in a new approach for individuals struggling with sexual issues. The debate next week comes as a key opportunity for Christians to present the Biblical perspective of sexuality, by showing compassion for people

consumed by pornographic images, supporting them

without supporting pornography itself.

Also, non-Christians will be able to better grasp an understanding of Jesus' take on sexuality. Sometimes Christians wrongfully miscommunicate truths of the Bible through their fear of sin. As a result, others misunderstand the Biblical perspective.

We know that Jesus loved the village whores – among other people who were usually hated, such as tax collectors, lepers and cripples – but he had a different idea for the purposes of mens' and womens' bodies.

By avoiding such an uncomfortable issue, Christians often fail to communicate Jesus' ideal of freedom from a lust that never satisfies. Instead of temporary physically motivated relationships, a marriage between two people who chose each other begins a union that is not only physical, but emotional and spiritual.

These ideas are relevant to the upcoming porn debate because marriage is jeopardized when people look at others' bodies on the screen as objects of pleasure. I have seen family members change after years of pornography and masturbation, as their physical needs become paramount in their spousal relationships. Sex itself becomes an empty

animalistic and soulless act.

Pornography only temporarily satisfies a human need. In the book "Sex God: Exploring the Endless Connections Between Sexuality And Spirituality," Rob Bell quotes an ancient Greek saying – "Food for the stomach and the stomach for the food."

"They understood a person to be a collection of physical needs – you're hungry and there's food to satisfy your hunger," Bell wrote. "They concluded that sex is just like food, so when a man was 'hungry,' he would go to a prostitute, saying, 'food for the stomach.'"

For many, pornography may be just that food – easily accessible and cheap.

For those who are not Christian, I ask you to consider if we are the sum of our desires. Please consider that if we exercise restraint, perhaps our marriages would be deeper, more meaningful and more intimate. I also ask Christians to attend the porn debate, represent God's perspective on sexuality, provide moral support for those

struggling with the issue and show compassion for those who believe differently, regardless of kitten fatalities.

