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## Revelation: Women joining men in porn-addiction ranks, Christian groups say

BY KELLI LACKETT  
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It started at age 7 or 8 when she found her father's girlie magazines and sexually explicit novels.

It ended more than 25 years later when she joined the 12-step program Sex Addicts Anonymous.

The 37-year-old Fort Collins woman, who asked that her name not be published, has had a pornography addiction for most of her adult life.

"There are people who do this in moderation and it doesn't rule their life. But for addicts, it ruins their lives," she said.

Compulsively viewing and reading pornography has traditionally been seen as a men's problem.

In recent years, churches have organized educational programs and support groups for men who use pornography.

In 2002, young pastors founded a church ministry called XXXchurch dedicated solely to helping Christian men avoid pornography and working to bring porn professionals to Christ.

But recent polls — many of them conducted by Christian organizations — indicate that porn might be women's dirty little secret, too.

One in five church-going women responding to a self-selected poll conducted by the Christian Web site ChristiaNet.com said they struggled with looking at pornography on an ongoing basis.

For years when people discussed women and porn, they were talking about wives with porn-addicted husbands or about how porn encourages men to objectify women.

But people who study the culture of pornography are discovering what the \$13 billion porn industry has already found: more and more women are porn consumers.

Groups of women are a more frequent sight at big porn conventions, said the Rev. J.R. Mahon, one of the founding pastors of XXXchurch, based in Grand Rapids, Mich.

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The Internet has changed the way people use pornography, said John Reynolds, a Fort Collins licensed clinical social worker who specializes in treating men.

"When I was growing up, pornography was way in the darkness. You had to go to a seedy part of town to buy it," he said. "Now you can have it in the privacy of your home."

Women whose penchant for porn violates their moral or religious values or interferes with their family life or work often feel alone, experts said. That's in part because of an age-old message that women who are highly sexual are "sluts" or "whores."

Another obstacle to getting help is that women many SAA meetings are mostly men, which can be intimidating for some women.

See Sunday's Coloradoan for more.

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Comments by: **ClearEyedJoe** Posted: Sat Jul 28, 2007 4:10 pm  
Oh for heaven's sakes, the love of erotica has never been exclusive to men.

I direct you to Good Vibrations at [www.goodvibes.com](http://www.goodvibes.com).

Here's part of their "About Us":

"Good Vibrations is a diverse, woman-focused retailer providing access to sex-positive products and accurate sex information through our clean and comfortable stores, catalog, and web site in order to enhance our customers' sex lives and to promote healthy attitudes about sex."

See also [www.blowfish.com](http://www.blowfish.com)

This article is much ado about nothing but Nosy Parkers!

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Comments by: **fcnatv** Posted: Sat Jul 28, 2007 2:24 pm  
Let's see, doog, the 70's was all about open sexuality and free love, and look where that got us! And most of us know our churches are full of hypocrites, but there's always room for one more. Feel free to join us some Sunday. I'm sure we can use some perfect souls among us. 😊

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Comments by: **ScottStevens** Posted: Sat Jul 28, 2007 11:39 am  
Idea: Stay out of the business of others and worry about your own problems. The reason people look at porn in the first place half the time is because they spent their childhood being told that if they dared to kiss a girl before they were married they were going straight to hell.

Church groups like this exist for the sole purpose of giving their members a sense of moral superiority. As for "finding a real girl" instead of an image, why? You can't accidentally get porn pregnant or contract an STD from it.

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Comments by: **doog** Posted: Sat Jul 28, 2007 10:39 am  
If there was more openness about sexuality, there'd be less porn abuse.

But, of course, sex is BAD! EVIL! DIRTY!

Thank you to all the churches. Love how they CAUSE the problem then coyly point fingers. Hypocrites.

There's a reason why preacher's kids are the wildest - you try to hold down the life force and it springs up twice as vigorously!

Mankind (men in particular) just refuse to learn (lighten up).

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Comments by: **Sammy518** Posted: Sat Jul 28, 2007 10:03 am  
Never figured women to be viewing porn...I'm no expert, but seems to me both sexes who do view it are lacking in social skills and communication with the opposite sex. Family member likes to view it, advised him to find a live girl, forget the images... 🙄

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