

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO

# PORN- OGRAPHY



Connecting Parents, Teens & Jesus  
in a Disconnected World

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*A Parent's Guide to Pornography*

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Pornography is a social toxin  
that destroys relationships, steals  
innocence, erodes compassion,  
breeds violence, and kills love.

**PORNOGRAPHY AND PUBLIC HEALTH:  
RESEARCH SUMMARY BY THE  
NATIONAL CENTER ON SEXUAL  
EXPLOITATION**

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# A LETTER FROM AXIS

*Dear Reader,*

We're Axis, and since 2007, we've been creating resources to help connect parents, teens, and Jesus in a disconnected world. We're a group of gospel-minded researchers, speakers, and content creators, and we're excited to bring you the best of what we've learned about making meaningful connections with the teens in your life.

This parent's guide is designed to help start a conversation. Our goal is to give you enough knowledge that you're able to ask your teen informed questions about their world. For each guide, we spend weeks reading, researching, and interviewing parents and teens in order to distill everything you need to know about the topic at hand. We encourage you to read the whole thing and then to use the questions we include to get the conversation going with your teen—and then to follow the conversation wherever it leads.

As Douglas Stone, Bruce Patton, and Sheila Heen point out in their book *Difficult Conversations*, “Changes in attitudes and behavior rarely come about because of arguments, facts, and attempts to persuade. How often do *you* change your values and beliefs—or whom you love or what you want in life—based on something someone tells you? And how likely are you to do so when the person who is trying to change you doesn’t seem fully aware of the reasons you see things differently in the first place?”<sup>1</sup> For whatever reason, when we believe that others are trying to understand *our* point of view, our defenses usually go down, and we’re more willing to listen to *their* point of view. The rising generation is no exception.

So we encourage you to ask questions, to listen, and then to share your heart with your teen. As we often say at Axis, discipleship happens where conversation happens.

Sincerely,  
Your friends at Axis

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<sup>1</sup> Douglas Stone, Bruce Patton, and Sheila Heen, *Difficult Conversations: How to Discuss What Matters Most*, rev. ed. (New York: Penguin Books, 2010), 137.



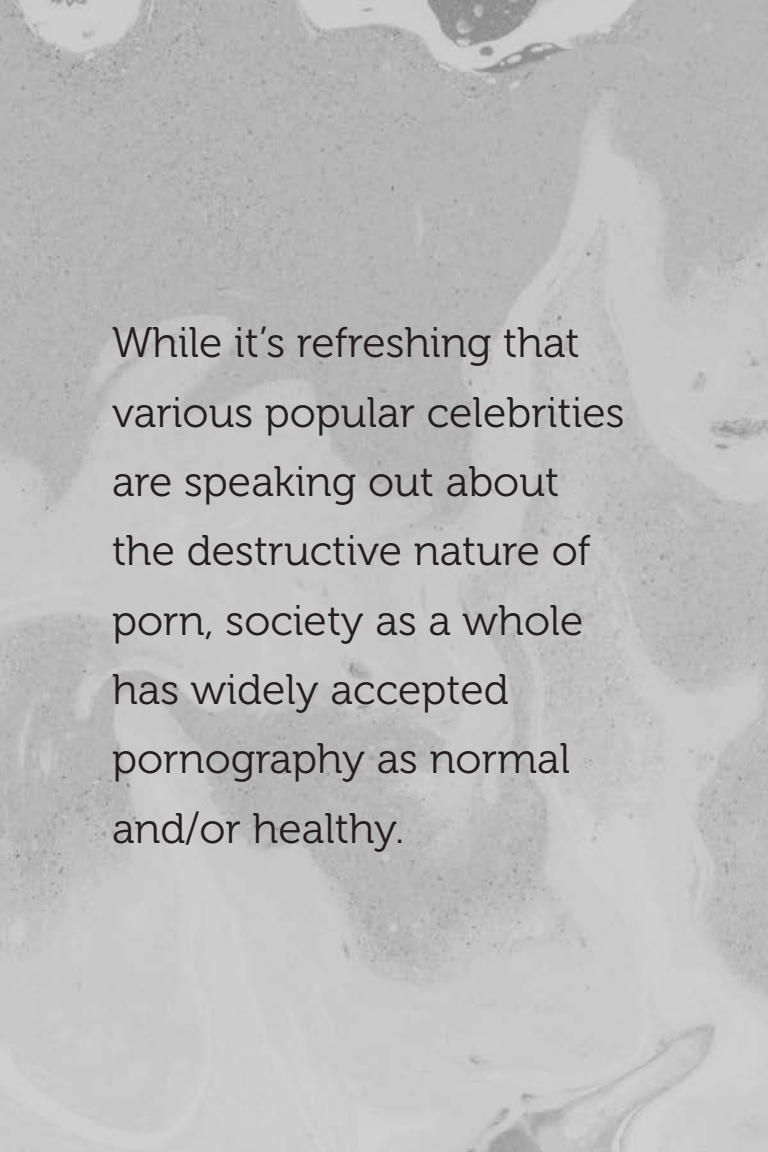
**IF WE DON'T  
DISCIPLE OUR  
KIDS ABOUT  
SEXUALITY,  
PORN WILL DO  
IT FOR US**

**THERE ARE FEW CULTURAL ISSUES** more pressing than the problem of pornography. Though extremely damaging to us, porn appeals to powerful urges that God created as good. Sexually explicit material has always been a cultural pitfall, but the internet and smartphones have provided unprecedented access to it.

Meanwhile, the nature of porn and our cultural attitudes toward it have shifted significantly over the past several decades. Material that was once considered pornographic is now almost quaint. And while it's refreshing that various popular celebrities are speaking out about the destructive nature of porn<sup>1</sup>, society as a whole has widely accepted pornography as normal and/or healthy.

This guide focuses on the general problem of porn in our culture. Know from

the outset that you might find some of the information in this guide disturbing. We have done our best to include only what we think you need to know to be aware of the extent of the problem of porn so that you can more effectively guide your family and cultivate deeper conversations.



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