

A few statistics. According to online statistics:

- § 96 percent of kids have gone online; 74% having access at home and 61% use the Internet on a typical day. [Kids stay connected, USA Today snapshots. 5 January, 2004 .]
- § 90% of 8-16 year olds using the Internet have viewed impurity on line (*most while doing homework*). 2004
- The largest consumer of Internet pornography is the 12-17 age group
Internet Pornography Statistics. Internet Filter Review, 2004. <http://www.purehope.net/stat.asp>

Add to that, according to online statistics, we are living in a nation in which *more than 70% of the men ages 18-34* in our nation visit an impure site in a typical month.

<http://www.safefamilies.org/sfStats.php>

Now, keeping in mind that people who are *fed* by a filthy diet of this garbage make up *most* of our American culture, *are we going to take our cues for what is acceptable contact in a courtship from a culture with this level of addiction to impurity?*

A little review: in the first sermon in this little series, we saw that marriage was not instituted by man but by God. We saw that we are *all* called to virginal love first before marriage. We saw that virginal love is inherently unselfish – it doesn't steal from the other person what doesn't belong to him. We saw that it is a sin of presumption to court before right time, since “Company keeping w/intention of early marriage can be considered a necessary *occasion of sin*.” We saw that if one is not *now* in a position to get married (if one *right now* isn't old enough, can't support a family and is not *right now* mentally ready or mature enough to get married), then one has no justifying reason to be courting or dating – no reason for putting himself in this occasion of grave sin. We saw that the men owe it to the ladies, to their honor, to prove their self-control. We saw that *mutual comfort and support* is an end and privilege of the **married**, and one is not entitled to be providing this to each other *while courting*. We saw that an unmarried man should never alone with an unmarried woman: always having a chaperone shows respect for God, and for the person you love – for her honor.

With that in mind, let's turn today's topic, the last in this series on courtship. On March 18, 1666, Pope Alexander VII made a declaration concerning some lax moral errors that were going around at the time. Pope Alexander VII in this decree *condemned* the idea that it would *only be a venial sin* to do something for the carnal and sensible delight which arises from the action, even if there is no danger of further consent or further sin – the idea that this would only be a venial sin has been *condemned* as a lax moral proposition (You can look this up in Denzinger, the enchiridion of definitions and declaration concerning articles of faith and morals – it's declaration D 1140/DS 2060). In other words, speaking about the unmarried, the Church has ruled that it is a **mortal sin** to do anything which will foreseeably cause this carnal delight, *however slight that carnal pleasure*, even if there is no danger of consenting to any further actions. A single person simply willing that pleasure directly is a grave sin.

We must keep in mind the following quote about the 6th Commandment – *Thou shalt not commit adultery* – from a standard traditional moral theology manual: “**Directly voluntary venereal pleasure outside of marriage is always grievously sinful and never admits of slight matter.”** Single people have to keep this in mind: all carnal pleasure for any single person, engaged or otherwise, however slight, directly willed, is *always a mortal sin*. In other words, the Pope's declaration

made it clear that, when a single person, whether or not the person is in a courtship or even engaged to be married, does something that will deliberately stir up the passions that we're talking about, if committed with sufficient awareness, and full consent of the will, it is always a **mortal** sin.

Every use of the rights of marriage is the *exclusive* right of the married **alone**. A priest doesn't have a right to this kind of delight – what makes one think that *anyone else* without the sacrament of matrimony has a right to it? Engagement is not a Sacrament. Therefore if a courting couple or *even an engaged couple* does *anything* that stirs up *any* carnal pleasure, *however slight*, it is a mortal sin. Any thought, word, look, action, if it causes any venereal pleasure, even if it's slight, it's off limits and it's grave matter, unmarried folks. **Taking anything** outside of its chaste and proper use in marriage, is *stealing* from God what *He* created *for a certain state alone*. We're dealing with serious powers connected to this – therefore, to misuse these powers has serious *consequences*.

Keep in mind that if one hears, 'that's just the priest's opinion' – remember that *Pope Alexander VII* condemned the idea that it would only be a venial sin for a single person to directly stir up this carnal pleasure – the Church has ruled this to be a laxist moral opinion. It's not just this priest's position: it's the *Church's* – if one would like, he can find this in Denzinger, the enchiridion of definitions and declarations concerning articles of faith and morals – it's #1140 in this manual, and it was issued on March 18, 1666, under the heading "*Errors of the moral laxists.*" (DS 2060)

If the unmarried sinner in this area can't understand why even his willing *slight* carnal delight is a mortal sin, then he doesn't have a holy enough view of the state of life from which he is stealing his pleasure. Keep in mind that to incur a mortal sin on the soul three things must be present: grievous matter, sufficient reflection, and the consent of the will.

So moms and dads – and especially dads – are your unmarried teens aware that if they do *any* act to *cause* this carnal pleasure, *even if they are causing slight pleasure*, they commit a mortal sin?

Fathers and mothers, are we making *sure* that children who are living at home *don't have the means and the occasions to be alone* and to fall into these sins? These sins would therefore in part be on your souls also. Remember the statistics we covered at the beginning about the internet and these sins.

A Couple of Quick Stories Before we Close:

- Sr. Josefa Menendez saw/heard souls in hell: "It seemed to me that the majority accused themselves of sins of **impurity**...and that most of the damned are in hell for these sins."
- Fr Gabrielle Amorth, the chief exorcist in Rome, said he had been confronted with numerous [possessed] people whose sins and means of possession were aberrations of **impurity**; a grave and hardened state in this sin. (*An Exorcist*, 59).
- St Alphonsus, bishop and moral doctor of the Church stated that because of "[sins of the 6th and 9th Commandments] the greater number of souls will be carried down into hell: indeed I do not hesitate to assert that because of this one vice of **impurity**, or at least not *without* this vice, *all* of the damned are condemned."
- Finally, at Fatima Our Lady said, "More souls go to hell for sins of the flesh than for any other reason." Our motivation for avoiding sin is the love of God, not the fear of hell, but we do have to be aware of how serious these sins are.

For those called to marriage, let's have *pure* courtships, *without* danger of sin: be prudent, avoid the occasions of sin, and have recourse to St. Joseph and to Our Lady, Our Mother Most

Courting and Physical Contact

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Pure. In seeking a partner in life, let's not start off by becoming partners in sin. Please; let's not take our cues from a society immersed in filth.