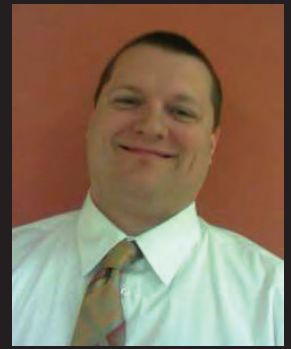




CHURCH GEEK SPEAK



by Glenn Kelley

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In years gone by church leaders would hold protest rallies outside of the pornographic shops waving their signs all hours of the day and night. But have you noticed that those porn shops have opened for business inside each of our homes disguised innocently as computers? The effects of this new “Virtual Porn Shop” is transparent in society and is even being defended as a social norm. We have come to accept the ads and other stimuli as part of the online culture.

Sadly, these virtual shops have made themselves at home in our churches as well. In his book, *Men's Secret Wars*, Patrick Means cites a survey of pastors and church lay leaders. Sixty-four percent of these Christian leaders confirm that they are struggling with sexual addiction or sexual compulsions (Grand Rapids: Revell Publishing, 1996. 255).

Recently I dropped in to a friend's church office. I peeked in the door and on the computer was a pornography site.

I was troubled and decided I needed to approach my friend regarding this matter. I shared some of my own pornography addictions and my childhood scars from being a prostitute at the age of twelve. The response came: “Glenn, I know its wrong, but I just can't seem to stop myself. If only I had someone sitting here with me who knew when I was being tempted.”

First I suggested that we pray together and asked if my friend was serious about getting past the addiction and was willing for me to be a part of that. My friend agreed and so I prayed a simple and sincere

prayer. “Lord, I pray we have the admin rights to install this application.” Then I took the keyboard and pointed the browser to www.X3Watch.com. I downloaded the X3Watch accountability software and installed it. My friend and I are now accountable to each other. If I visit a questionable site, my friend knows it, and if my friend goes there, I'm notified. Proverbs tells us that as iron sharpens iron, one person sharpens another. Holding one another mutually accountable is sharpening us both.

While some might argue that applications like X3Watch are not needed, I offer up a simple argument. Even the most innocent of internet browsing finds us being bombarded by alluring banner ads, the porn-light graphics, and other suggestive material. Each of these acts like a “silent seduction” that brings us to the edge of temptation. For church staff member who are struggling, or for those who might be drawn into the struggle, it is imperative that we do what is needed to secure the spiritual safety of our ministries staff online.

Campus Crusade says “Sexual immorality and pornography have become the defining issues and obstacles to spiritual growth and ministry both on high school and college campus.” I believe the battle is being waged on the church campus as well. That's why I recommend that churches avail themselves to tools such as X3Watch accountability and SafeEyes browsing software packages.

For more details on how you can help your church battle the Seduction of the Internet, visit www.ChurchMedic.com/seduction. 