

## 2.25.19 - Conditioning

As we go through life we are conditioned (programmed) by our parents, our brothers and sisters, our classmates at school and what we read, listen to and watch. Charlie Tremendous Jones used to say, “You will be the same person 5 years from now that you are today except for two things...the books that you read and the people that you associate with.” This programming is in progress until we die. For the sake of this article we are only going to deal with the programming that leads to pornography.

In the beginning we were all born naked, but clothing was not delayed for long after that. Despite our efforts to take the clothing off our parents insisted on keeping us clothed. When we were able to talk and ask “why” we were told such things as, “You need to keep your clothes on” or “Because I said so” or “What will people think” or “You will catch a cold” or “You don’t see me running around naked.” This is not an article on parenting, so I will not point out the implications of each reason, but **Pro 22:6** suggests that the training may last till the child is old, so it better be as right as possible. We copy more of the bad in our parents than the good.

Because of our early conditioning...as we get older we believe that there is something inherently bad about our naked bodies and so we keep them covered when in the company of other humans. Childhood has enough going on that we do not realize the programming in this area. When we start to notice the opposite sex, we want to see the forbidden; their naked bodies. Like our first parents and the forbidden fruit. Like in the garden, Satan is always ready to show you a way to get to the forbidden. You could hide in the shower at school to catch a glimpse. You could make a peephole in your sibling’s bedroom wall. You could open your sibling’s bedroom door and say you got the wrong door. You could climb up in a tree outside your sibling's window. When you turn all these ideas (temptations) down, Satan will have you

stumble across a copy of Playboy or something similar, or you can do a search on the Internet and naked pics shows up even though the search would not include something like that. Soon you discover that you can see naked pics for hours and not spend much time on any one and seldom see the same one twice. As always...one sin brings many with it. Of course, you come away feeling guilty and with a perverted view of the body—yours and theirs.

Just suppose with me for a moment that you were allowed to be naked at home with the family and with likeminded guests. Keep in mind that I am assuming only family friendly nakedness. There would be no time that you could not see people of all ages and both genders and it would not be “sin” or unusual to see naked bodies. The photos in the porno magazines or websites would have less appeal than the latest sports car because familiarity dulls the appeal.

Here is a different approach to the same end. Married couples that are only naked for sex and clothed at all other times, program themselves like Pavlov’s dogs to associate nakedness with sex. This is what I think is the big problem for the textile world: they can not imagine nakedness without sex. If they hear of a mixed group being naked, they assume it is an orgy...and they only assume that because of their programming.

It is a short step then to assume that the more skin a person has exposed the more interested they are in a sexual encounter. Girls at the swimming pool in bikinis often get offended if some guy stares or gawks at them, but that is just what we have programmed them to do by the method of conditioning we have put them through. We believe that the Biblical method to break the programing is to see lots of non-sexual nakedness as God intended from the beginning. Make non-sexual nudity routine from an early age and break the cycle. We are not by any means trying to say

that this will do away with physical attraction. Physical attraction is not a bad thing and I'd even say that it's a God given attribute and necessary for the procreation of the human race. We are saying that the attraction will be more meaningful than just based on seeing someone's naked body because, if we are raised with non-sexual nakedness being commonplace then we will have seen hundreds or even thousands of naked bodies without sexual attraction. If you are having a hard time believing that it is most likely because of your conditioning. I can testify to the fact that after visiting over a dozen family friendly naturist resorts and several trips to naturist beaches as well as visiting in the homes of naturist families and seeing literally thousands of naked bodies that in these non-sexual venues not a single person has even displayed the outward sign of arousal...not one! We are not saying it doesn't happen, we are stating without hesitation that it is extremely rare. We'd also like to add that with such commonplace of non-sexual nudity the "forbidden" part has been removed and right along with it much of the appeal of pornography.

That said, physical attraction and even arousal can occur while viewing someone fully clothed, so the nakedness, unless we have conditioned ourselves to be aroused by nakedness, can have nothing to do with the physical attraction. The key then, is to condition ourselves to not be aroused by nakedness by being around non-sexual nudity on a regular basis.

Non-sexual photos on the internet is not the solution to the problem. Somehow photos do not convince the mind. The body language is missing which would tell you that he or she is not looking for a sexual encounter. Even if the site has only non-sexual photos it is a short step to sites that mix some sexual photos and another short step to all sexual photos to sexual videos. The solution is to apply **Rom 12:2 - And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and**

**perfect, will of God.** and expose yourself to lots of non-sexual nakedness. Thus, convincing the heart and mind that nakedness is not often associated with the preparation for sex.

Can a man look on a naked woman and not lust? The Bible seems to indicate that we can. The **Proverbs 7** man is punished and he was enticed. **Proverbs 6:24-35** also does not give the man permission to yield even if the woman enticed him. In **Gen 38** Tamar is not punished though she acted like a harlot to commit incest with her father-in-law Judah. Judah did have to swallow a lot of pride when he was ready to rid himself of Tamar. David and Bathsheba are a better example in **2 Samuel 11**. Bathsheba was naked and was not punished, but David paid dearly for his lust. So, God expects men to control themselves, even when enticed or confronted with an attractive woman naked or otherwise.

The verse that is misused most on this topic is **Mat 5:28 - But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.** The first incorrect assumption is that a woman must be naked in order to be lusted after, we contend that a person can lust for a clothed woman as much or more than a naked woman. With clothes a woman can “hide” some of her imperfections thus improving the look that might entice to lust. She can enhance some parts with the use of padding and design. She can expose certain areas while leaving just a little bit of cover increasing the imagination response. The second incorrect assumption is that this verse does not say, “do not look on a woman” or “do not be attracted to a woman” that would be utterly ridiculous since more than half the population is women and without physical attraction we’re in big trouble. Remember that the definition of lust is that I must have it and I must have it now no matter the consequences. What the verse is doing is equating lust with adultery and fornication...sex outside of or before marriage, which we should all know is sin. God does not command what is impossible to do. What He

commands may be difficult to do, but He will make a way and help us through. Part of His way is to make the naked body a common sight so that it loses some of its sexual appeal. Remember that it was God's original intent that we be naked and unashamed, it would appear the only one intent on covering it up is Satan so that he can hide the image and likeness of God Himself.

We have all have bad programming in some area, but we need to realize that they are not in read-only-memory. The programming can be changed, the code can be rewritten. We are commanded to renew our minds, which means that it can be done. A lot more can be said about overcoming the evils of porn, but this has to be one of the basic methods of fixing the problem as it was in God's original programming.