Spirituality has always felt to me as private as sexuality. We don't go waving our wieners all over the place and we shouldn't wave our gods around either.

Michael Ian Black

Our partner's sexuality does not belong to us. It isn't just for and about us, and we should not assume that it rightfully falls within our jurisdiction.

Esther Perel

Pornography, Erotica

and the development of adolescent male sexuality and spirituality

It is a myth that the Song of Solomon extols marital erotica

by Dr. Andrew Corbet
John’s story
In your experience, how prevalent in the use of pornography among teenage boys (your own personal awareness)?

What would be your initial reaction to John’s ‘confession’?

How do you think different parents/other staff within your school would have responded?

When I say ‘Christian spirituality’, what is the first phrase that comes to mind?
Sexuality and spirituality are two sides of the same coin. (Richard Rohr)

“Lutheranism could espouse an attitude to the body that sought not to transcend physicality but to embrace it, in all its aspects” (Rittgers, 2012, p. 207).
In your opinion, in what was is the human body closely connected to Christian spirituality?
Shame “is a complex emotional response that all humans acquire during early development” (Vanscoy, 2006)

“Shame is highly correlated with addiction, depression, violence, aggression, bullying, suicide, (and) eating disorders” (Brown, 2012)
1. pornography and erotica, with a particular overview of a biblical perspective.
2. pornography and erotica and its influence and impact on the developing teenager.
3. provide a brief framework
a Satanic “sexual attack against the mind of humanity”
(Murphy, 1996, p. 122)

a “demonic evil that traffics in human sex”
(Thomas Nelson, 2001)

an assault on “the senses and sensibilities of the Christian”
(Nelson, Thomas, 1995)
16th and 17th century literature “produced visual and written erotic imagery to nourish and excite sexual fantasy” (Hawkes, p. 88)

Pornography, Erotica and the development of adolescent male sexuality and spirituality
porneúō  its changing meaning

unfaithfulness

Amos 2:7
Jeremiah 5:7
Hosea 1-3
porneúō its changing meaning

fornication

unfaithfulness

adultery

Amos 2:7
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unfaithfulness
adultery

fornication
incest
sodomy
unlawful marriage
sexual intercourse

Amos 2:7
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porneúō  its changing meaning

unfaithfulness
fornication
adultery
incest
sodomy
unlawful marriage
sexual intercourse

subjugation
aggression
degradation
abuse
coercion
violence
dominance
control
sadism
rape

Amos 2:7
Jeremiah 5:7
Hosea 1-3
‘Porn kind of stays in a boy’s head’. Jacob, 17 (Hamilton, 2010)
Pornography has a tendency to dehumanize people.

“sexually explicit materials that purvey and survey a feminized subject who becomes the object of a domineering and possessive phallic presence and gaze” (Caputi, 2003)
*eros* is the most accurate rendition of the Hebrew aheb

It’s failure to be used in the Greek bible created “the problematic rupture between eros and agape in the Christian theology of love”. (Wood, 2010)
“[E]roticism is first and foremost a thirst for otherness” and that it is essentially about desire… “a shot fired in the direction of the world beyond”. (Burrows 1998)

Spirituality has to do with sexuality (and in this context eroticism – as an energy that drives humanity toward life), and pornography has to do with ‘genitality’ (Richard Rohr).
“Both erotic and pornographic material can be sexually stimulating; however, pornography is used to degrade others, while erotica celebrates human sexual experience” (Balswick & Balswick, 2008)
“Those who deny their bodies and their feelings, thinking that the real self is the mental subject, are never wholly available. Some part, the vital, spontaneous part, is always under constraint. Touch is always feared” (Timmerman, 1992)

“the knowing that comes from eros strives to form a union, to be part of, in proximity to the other, while cognitive knowledge, attempting to divorce itself from eros, focuses on the control of the other known and its usefulness” (Black, 2003)
How readily do you find teenagers (in general) and teenage boys (in particular) talk about issues of sexuality?

What do you think are the stumbling blocks?
The ancient Hebrews, in understanding themselves as being created in the image of God, saw that that included “bodies, minds, and spirits, genitals and all” (Ellens, 2009)
Shame “relays the message that one has not just done something wrong, but deep inside, the person is flawed at the core and therefore can never measure up” (Ellens)
“about a third described the porn habit as a form of betrayal or infidelity. But the majority were neutral or even positively disposed to their lover’s taste for smut” (Douthat, 2008)
“39% of male church members accessed internet pornography more than 25 times. And, among lower age group men, 19 to 22 and 23 to 29 year olds, the percentages were 60 percent and 59 percent respectively” (White & Kimball, 2009)
What are your current practices of negotiating the sexuality mine field within your school? In what departments is sexuality most discussed?

In what departments should it be discussed?
DROPPING KNOWLEDGE ON THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF PORN

Link to Resources:

http://1drv.ms/1NGPFQI

POORN IS LIKE A DRUG

On the surface, cocaine and porn both seem to have a lot in common. Once you’ve had a taste, the effect can be exhilarating. But while the high from cocaine will eventually wear off, the effect of porn can linger long past the initial sexual satisfactions. The physiological effects of the drugs are so similar that the same neurochemical impact can be observed when either is consumed. This is why porn is so dangerous when used in large doses.

Over time, the constant need for the chemical release from small doses of cocaine to an intense rush of sexual excitement created an over-reliance on the drug. Similarly, porn addiction develops when the brain becomes dependent on the constant rush of sexual satisfaction that the drug provides. Over time, the brain becomes less responsive to the natural rewards of sex and more dependent on the artificial rewards provided by the drug.

Dropping Knowledge on the Harmful Effects of Porn

Dropping Knowledge on the Harmful Effects of Porn

Video: The Most Successful Male Porn Star of All Time Speaks Out on Porn

True Story: What Porn Taught Me About Being Gay

June 19, 2016

Key Takeaways

- While some websites offer “safe” videos, keep in mind that what you see is what you get. Be aware of the content and enjoy it responsibly.
- Remember that adult content is not just for entertainment but can also be educational.
- Be mindful of your losing control and seek help if needed.
- Educate yourself and participate in healthy, consensual relationships.

Learn more at: www.FightTheNewDrug.org
“15-25 year old males primarily viewed pornography to get aroused or masturbate (48.8%), out of curiosity (39.5%) and because it’s ‘cool’ (28.5%)” and that there appears to be a correlation between exposure and “the biological and cognitive cycles that modulate sexual interest, desire and risk taking”. (Bryant, 2009)
“protecting children from sexual harm does not mean protecting children from sexuality. Indeed, maintaining children’s sexual ignorance fosters sexual abuse and poor sexual and emotional health.” (Flood, 2009)
Getting back to John… how would you deal with his struggles? If he is overtly Christian? If he is not?
Normalise – understand your worldview
Normalise – understand your worldview

Educate
Normalise – understand your worldview
Educate
Risk
Normalise – understand your worldview
Educate
Risk
Influence
Normalise – understand your worldview
Educate
Risk
Influence
Resources
I have found the one whom my soul loves.

Song of Solomon 3:4