

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM – HOW TO OVERCOME DEPRAVITY

David Howard

Pornography used to be only found in the seedy corners of the decaying parts of town in dimly lit X-rated stores. Now, it's in the open and free on the internet where everyone has access to it. What is now seen on TV's and Billboards used to be considered porn. It's no wonder that other religions view the U.S. as the great Satan.



Troubling Statistics about Porn

I have a 43 page document from Covenant Eyes on Porn Stats that have been researched and verified.

- Only 43% of teens believe porn is bad for society.
- Of 13 to 24 year olds, only 57% believe a fully nude image that is sexually arousing is pornography.

In 2008, more than 560 college students responded to a survey:

- 57 93% of boys and 62% of girls were exposed to pornography before 18.
- 14% of boys and 9% of girls were exposed to pornography before 13.
- 15% of boys and 9% of girls have seen child pornography.

“When the morals of society are upset, the family is the first to suffer”. – Dr. Billy Graham

The fall of Sodom and Gomorrah in Gen. 19 has a spiritual application for today. The Old Testament is for our learning.

Rom 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

It tells us that Depravity is a Universal Problem. (Romans 5:12) Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned— (Romans 5:19) For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The breaking up of a home does not often make headlines, but it eats like termites at the structure of the nation. Dr. Billy Graham

Dangerous Household Traits

Trait 1 The absence of a divine perspective. (Genesis 19:31) Now the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is no man on the earth to come in to us as is the custom of all the earth.

That last phrase is a euphemism for having sex.

God just saved them, yet they do not think to trust Him and no desire to wait on Him to provide for their needs. Instead, they revert back to the life experiences (however wrong they are) and the immoral lessons learned in Sodom. You become like those you hang around with. Their minds had been contaminated.

Trait 2 – A distortion of moral discernment. You can take the girl out of Sodom, but you can't take the Sodom out of the girl. (Genesis 19:32) Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father."

They talked about this like they were planning a trip into town. They already knew just how to get what they wanted through alcohol and sex.

Trait 3- A breakdown of parental authority.

“Children who are exposed to immorality repeatedly over long periods of time begin to lose their sensitivity” – Charles Swindoll

(Genesis 19:33) So they made their father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

Trait 4 – A buildup of immoral insensitivity. Genesis 19:34-35

(34) It happened on the next day that the firstborn said to the younger, "Indeed I lay with my father last night; let us make him drink wine tonight also, and you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father."

(35) Then they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

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After the daughters of Lot gave birth to two sons the scripture does not record any outrage from Lot, no sorrow, no confession or repentance. It was as if there was no shame at all from this family. The eldest daughter named her son “Moab” which means “from father”. The youngest daughter named her son “Ben-ammi” meaning “son of my kinsman” Nothing more is heard from Lot but from his “sons” came the Moabites and the Ammonites who became enemies of Israel. They would be defeated by Kings David and Solomon but would rise against Israel again once Israel became a divided Kingdom. If only Lot had not gone to Sodom, if only Abraham had obeyed God in the beginning of his journey and not have taken Lot with him. Disobedience to God has consequences.

Here's what we learn from the fallout of sin:

1. **Recognize that no one is immune to the dangers of being around sin.** Even though Lot managed not to participate in the sinful activities of Sodom he was later affected by it. **2 Peter 2:7** “and delivered righteous Lot, *who was* oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked”
2. **Pay attention to subtle hints that something is wrong.** Choose your entertainment wisely.

Don't hang around people who make fun of what is good and righteous! Be careful who your friends are. Get involved with your family to protect them.

3. **Declare and model God's standards repeatedly.** Lot may have avoided the sinful ways of Sodom but he planted his family right in the middle of it. I twice had the opportunity to pastor a church and turned down twice because I didn't want to plant my daughter and I in that area to live because of prostitution. I was a single father and didn't want myself or my daughter exposed to that. **Psalms 1:1** “Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful”
4. **Guard against becoming a passive Christian.** It's easy to shrug your shoulders and say, “it's a terrible society, what can we do” or “that's life”. Pay attention to what your kids and Grandkids are telling you, what they are teaching in school and the philosophies of the world that slip into their homes by music, tv, internet and reading material. Get involved with their lives. The next generations need you.

Just because you don't seem to be cool anymore doesn't mean you do not have a purpose in life and that you don't have influence enough to make a difference.

Churches cannot do miracles in the two hours of Sunday mornings. How little we can do for those who only attend twice a year. Let's push to get them back into church under God's Word and save our families!

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