

## Sexual Purity Initiative

Sexual purity is one aspect of the wider subject of holiness. The standard of conduct expected of believers in regard to sexual purity is emphasized in Ephesians 5:3-7 (NIV).

*But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure, or greedy person – such a man is an idolater – has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them.*

The idea of holiness is largely ignored by the culture of our day. Use of the internet and other sources of pornography has become a problem even for many who wish to live a life pleasing to God. How can purity be retained or regained among us?

### Seeking to Help

Knowing that sexual impurity, especially the use of pornography, is a sin that has a hold upon many believers, the EFCA has decided to address the issue as it affects pastors. Again, we are guided by the scriptures. Galatians 6:1 states (NIV)

*Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently.*

This public call to sexual purity seeks to provide access to pastoral care for those who struggle with pornography. The objective in all ministerial discipline is personal growth and, if possible, restoration to ministry. Our intent in this special initiative is to promote early intervention so that the need for formal discipline is less likely.

### Levels of Concern

For the sake of providing pastoral care, we have identified various levels of concern. A confidential request for help is a healthy first step. If a person commits to participate in action steps appropriate for the level of concern, we believe growth and restoration can occur without formal discipline. Occasionally, a case may require formal discipline.

Level of Involvement	EFCA's Expectation
Uneasy conscience	Re-establish personal integrity
Self initiated seeking of material	Develop action plan & accountability
Pattern of usage	Seek counseling & accountability

Greater levels of involvement in pornography do require formal discipline.

Addictive behavior	Submit to discipline procedures
Criminal behavior	Submit to discipline procedures