

Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by Bigmoish - 22 Dec 2015 21:56

Due to a recent discussion on the forum, I'd like to hear what the masses think about viewing pornography and masturbating. Is it selfish?

I am only looking for absolute answers.

If you're not sure, come back when you are sure.

If you think it depends on one's age, race, marital status, religion, etc....too bad.

Feel free to add your two cents in the comments.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by markz - 29 Dec 2015 21:53

[Hashivalisesonyishecho wrote:](#)

[Bigmoish wrote:](#)

Too much lomdus for me.

Just as when a person is selfish, everything he does will inevitably contain some element of that selfishness, so when one is a lamdan, everything he says will inevitably be at least somewhat lomdish.

[Bigmoish wrote:](#)

The question was if the ACTS are selfish.

This question is more about how you want to define the word selfish than it is about the properties of masturbation.

On the other hand, actually, it is absolutely selfish even if you define the word selfish to mean harming others as Waydown defines it. Because it is referred to in scripture as spilling innocent blood and as oppression (????).

Hishavta li my senses, and my vote swings again

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by Watson - 30 Dec 2015 06:31

[eslaasos wrote:](#)

I have numerous reasons why I want to be sober and I am given numerous opportunities to slip. Sometimes some motivations kick in, sometimes others, so this knowledge is on occasion helpful.

Thank you.

Personally, knowledge never helped me stay sober. I never masturbated because I forgot it was wrong. But if this discussion helps other people stay sober then I'm all for it.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by Yetzergotnotin - 30 Dec 2015 08:32

From a religious point of view yes but otherwise it is a way of life. Its hard not to. Its not that it's impossible though

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by markz - 30 Dec 2015 11:50

[Yetzergotnotin wrote:](#)

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"its a way of life" to be selfish?

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by eslaasos - 30 Dec 2015 17:29

[Watson wrote:](#)

[eslaasos wrote:](#)

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I didn't say that I forgot it was wrong, but sometimes the temptation is not to masturbate but to start the trip.

For me, if I watch movies or read secular books I know it will make me feel disgusting and would potentially lead to a fall so that's one of my main battlefields. I hope to stay away from them and at the initial stages, the logic helps me. Once I start down that road, logic is irrelevant, which is why I need to stay far away.

I hope someone finds this discussion helpful.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?
Posted by cordnoy - 30 Dec 2015 17:40

[eslaasos wrote:](#)

[Watson wrote:](#)

[eslaasos wrote:](#)

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Of course we do.

Perhaps one day we will meet for a tea or a pint to discuss further.

May I suggest Piccadilly Circus or Leicester Square?

I will dye my hair orange to fit in.....oops, what hair?

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?
Posted by eslaasos - 30 Dec 2015 17:45

You know my weaknesses, so that's below the belt.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?
Posted by Watson - 30 Dec 2015 18:16

[eslaasos wrote:](#)

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I didn't say you said you forget it's wrong.

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Then again, you didn't say I said you said you forget it's wrong.

Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by markz - 11 Jan 2016 18:00

selfishness feeds lust which feeds selfishness... .. - an endless circle

Which is why the common ???? of ???? and ???? is ???.

They are intertwined one another

Rabbi A Schorr ?????

You can start from minute 11, and if you like gematria there are some pearls to be found here

Thanks to Torahanytime

Forgive me for lowering the sound quality to enable upload

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by waydown - 12 Jan 2016 16:07

Cords,

Sorry I have been out for a while,

Again how does this relate to steps 4 & 5? What does lust have to do with "others"?

Please explain this question

Part of the steps of ridding lust is to write out how we harmed and resented others and let go of it. My understanding is that this is a lead up. First we realize we are selfish and lust harmed others. Then we try to rectify our behavior. Because since the underlying reason why we lusted was due to this midda of not caring about others, once we start caring about others we won't lust.

Even if its not the underlying midda but since when we lust we don't care about others by starting to care about others we won't lust anymore

And so basically my understanding is that recovery is based on the notion that we harmed others. that's why I pose the question that I don't see how the root (or shorosh) of lust harmed others nor do I see that an outcome of lust necessarily harmed others. Whats more even in the instances when we did harm others it wasn't that we didn't care about others feelings. It was more that we had this almost coffee/ addiction like addiction called lust. So even when we harmed others it bothered us that we harmed others. Does it even bother a selfish person when he harms others. Henceforth I don't get the whole concept of this recovery and how it relates to ridding oneself of lust.

And yes I know people say you just have to do the recovery without asking questions. But that's a very odd thing to say. Because its not a physical thing like take medicine without asking questions how it cures. Its all a mental thing. The idea is to work your mind and connect the dots so that you don't lust when in my mind the dots don't connect.

This is why its important to discuss did we harm others. Perhaps I should post a new survey with a simple question stating, "must we harm others when we lust?" Because to me name calling is not relevant to recovery. So whether this is the way Webster titches selfish or its not the correct titch is really a futile irrelevant topic to me.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by mggsbms - 12 Jan 2016 16:57

Suffice it to say that I'm far from being the expert on the 12 steps around here. But to me you are over simplifying the 4th step to be dealing just about hurting others.

There are at least two other major components at play.

1. Resentment, self centeredness and selfishness are what "feed" the addiction, when we are focused on our selves and our resentments we have the need to act out to calm our pain.

2. By cleaning house we are readying ourselves to be the recipients of a spiritual experience, which is the corner stone of recovery.

Therefore the whole issue "are we really hurting others" isn't that central to the fourth step.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by mggsbms - 12 Jan 2016 22:11

[9494 wrote:](#)

[mggsbms wrote:](#)

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I too am no "expert" on the 12 steps (only on step 1). I dont think we are oversimplifying them - they are pretty simple. I think we are overcomplicating them.

Explain

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?
Posted by cordnoy - 12 Jan 2016 23:48

[waydown wrote:](#)

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There really is nothing new being said here.

Thread going in circles.

I don't convince people to join program.

I do try explaining stuff, but here, it has been fulfilled.

B'hatzlachah

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Explain

I will say like this: Look to the **source**. Look at the people who "invented" the 12 steps ie AA and look at the people who live these steps and put them at the centre of their lives - ie the guys in the anonymous fellowships. You will rarely rarely (if ever) find these sort of debates among them. People don't sit in meetings and learn the steps in the books like a deep sugya. It's not bava kama and it's not even mesilas yesharim. You could probably find more lomdus in the haskomas to a sefer written this decade. Probably more lomdus in a pashkvil.

OK! so back to the guys living this 12 steps thingy - They read the texts simply and share what works. Then they go and live the steps with the guidance of someone who's **actually living them**. Somehow these very people don't get caught up with (pointless? endless?) debates about the steps that we are finding on these threads. You won't find anyone in these fellowships who is breaking their teeth trying to understand them. And nevertheless it works for them.

Ok sorry I have had my rant.

...NOW...

Let the pointless...and increasingly boring debate commence...And when someone else finds something else to nitpick and analyze to death about the steps let him or her start their own thread about it. In which is featured discussions by "experts", "talmideia chachomim", "lamdonim", and "people with *WHOLE minutes* of experience in living the steps"...and we can have this whole party again free of charge! OK now the rant is really over.

Explained

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