

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 cordnoy - 15 Mar 2017 13:56

[RaabosMachshovos wrote on 15 Mar 2017 13:23:](#)

almost everything we do... to a degree.. is selfish by webster's definition.

The word selfish has a negative connotation

We call people selfish when all they do is think of themselves in exclusion of anyone else.

But in truth we eat, drink, sleep, exercise, go to work... all these things have a strong element of being "selfish"...

I do not see the gain in isolating one act and then dissecting it to see if it is selfish....what benefit is there in further shaming an issue we all are here to address... to one degree or another we know it is wrong, but further shaming it and calling it selfish will not help.

Lu yatzura I could not find any reason porn or mz"I was wrong... do you think calling me selfish would help? I dont think theres any harm anyways... who am i hurting... Ela mai I know its wrong so what gain is there in now using it to categorize me, as a person, as a selfish person.... by dint

of calling the act selfish and if I am someone who struggles not doing it... you are calling me selfish... and that helps the struggles how pray-tell??

I like focusing on the positives... how we are here to be oivdei hashem... how we acknowledge our shortcomings and are taking major steps to fix them... i rather that define me

Il don't like analyzin' things to death, but I must say that there are several seemingly inherent contradictions in this post.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?
Posted by cordnoy - 15 Mar 2017 13:59

[RaabosMachshovos wrote on 15 Mar 2017 13:53:](#)

[cordnoy wrote on 15 Mar 2017 13:43:](#)

If we acknowledge that we are selfish, we can work on it.

but is **that** the issue?

We dont do it because we are selfish... we do it and therefore we are selfish...

the issues we struggle with nogaya to porn and mz"I are not rooted in being selfish it is first and foremost a strong tayva Hashem in his infinite wisdom bestowed upon us and ,for some, a serious addiction (to some a very real clinical condition)

is there no fear of harm by attaching labels which may further depress someone who recognizes already his shortcomings in this parsha??

I thought I recognized that in your first post.

I believe you are mistaken.

We do it because we are selfish.

And that is key to fixin' it.

B'hatzlachah

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by cordnoy - 15 Mar 2017 14:18

[RaabosMachshovos wrote on 15 Mar 2017 13:53:](#)

[cordnoy wrote on 15 Mar 2017 13:43:](#)

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is there no fear of harm by attaching labels which may further depress someone who recognizes already his shortcomings in this parsha??

And by the way, what do you think tayva is?

And by the way, why is "actin' upon our desire" not a label, but "doin' somethin' because we are selfish" yes a label?

And by the way, why would bein' selfish cause depression, but recognizin' shortcomin's not?

I do apologize for my questions.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by GrowStrong - 15 Mar 2017 15:41

Recovery is about working on yourself and about giving that back to those around you. (after taking for so long) To your non addict family that means just giving everything you have. To the addicts around you that means giving them a piece of your sobriety.

Being selfish and being a taker are both intimately connected.

I don't think an addict can come close to sobriety without acknowledging their core selfishness in all their addicted actions and taking action to becoming a giver..

That doesn't mean you can conclude that they were a bad person.

I think its a different type of selfishness compared to the kid who wont share his candy. And that doesn't make the kid bad either it makes them selfish.

Do people still talk to bigMoish?

I vote that both P and M are incredibly selfish, both in action and in thought.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by RaabosMachshovos - 15 Mar 2017 16:13

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I do apologize for my questions.

Firstly dont apologize :-) by all means :-D

It is interesting seeing others perspectives...

Reading GrowStrong's response It gives me more of an angle of where youre coming from...

in my mind there is a difference between falling to ones tayvas and being actively selfish - as in - the house is a mess but i am going to ignore household responsibilities and go play basketball for 3 hrs while my wife has to clean and watch the kids... to me thats an egregious display of selfishness... in contradistinction... i am actively trying to control my tayva but have a fall to play to that extreme ... yes if i recognize i have p and m issues and ignore them and follow my tayvas with no plan or care to change then yes that is selfish being that it effects me and my family greatly...

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by Hashivalisesonyishecho - 15 Mar 2017 16:26

I am speaking here as an outsider, and certainly without any expertise, but just to say something that may be true, I'll let Cordnoy confirm or deny.

I think that RabbosMachshovos is making some good points but I think Cords is coming from a different place. He is coming from having worked the steps. (which I have not, as I stated that I'm an outsider, and this is just conjecture.) In his work he found that the underlying root of the problem is selfishness, although we don't necessarily identify that in the manifestation. He found that the remedy comes through working against selfishness.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?
Posted by cordnoy - 15 Mar 2017 19:08

[RaabosMachshovos wrote on 15 Mar 2017 16:13:](#)

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Of course there are levels of selfishness.

And yes, someone could do somethin' that is completely beyond his control.

But, it is important (and I think crucial) to concede that the act of masturbation (in contradistinction to the act of eatin') is inherently a selfish one.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?
Posted by tzomah - 16 Mar 2017 18:02

how can something that totally takes away your sense of self be selfish?

but that is the essence of selfish as per r' shimon shkop to be present as a **self** hemshech of hkb"h to incorporate others

acts in and of themselves can't be considered any middah as **no** act can happen without machshava

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?
Posted by tzomah - 16 Mar 2017 18:23

how can something that so totally takes away ones sense of self (b'mkom shy"h ain y"t)

be selfish?

as per r" shimon shkop that being present as a **self hemshech of hkb"h** and thru that incorporating others then it is definitely selfis

acts themselves can't be categorized in any middah as **no** act takes place that is not a manifestation of machshava

but here you shut off machshava witch is the definition of selfish kn"l

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by Trouble - 16 Mar 2017 20:21

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by Markz - 16 Mar 2017 21:05

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?
Posted by cordnoy - 16 Mar 2017 21:22

[Markz wrote on 16 Mar 2017 21:05:](#)

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Sorry, women I know.....

Yiddish, I don't.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?
Posted by GrowStrong - 16 Mar 2017 21:34

[cordnoy wrote on 16 Mar 2017 21:22:](#)

[Markz wrote on 16 Mar 2017 21:05:](#)

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Sorry, women I know.....

Yiddish, I don't.

Right! And neither does Google translate

B"h, for a minute I gitrkht when I'm on the boy Param, and I walked to that I do not Vatanen jaw in word until the other, and now I bastion - that I'm on the toys Param I fashti not Qin toys, and i ask you forgiveness, but my teacher had always said that i have stopped a coupe that dmalts i have no forests the moral word vain abvu and guilds the holy barshfe that seems a teacher does not giveth watt Minor A coupe has stud with that

Fer vooos?

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by startrekuser - 22 Mar 2017 02:08

I was thinking about this question today and I have some thoughts and questions. On these forums, we always talk about lusting after women, including our wives and label that behavior as a bad thing. Don't people, especially men, have natural lustful urges? Why is that bad and is there a difference between natural urges and a lustful feeling? Aren't these urges something that can be used for good or evil? If you lust after your wife and you have relations, isn't the lust a good thing if you satisfy her? It's not just selfishness b/c you've used that urge to do good.

I'm curious what others have to say about this. Of course, if you involve yourself in porn or you masturbate, you've used that urge for evil. It's a very strong urge though, and difficult to resist esp. when you don't have a wife or your wife is unwilling or unable to have relations. It takes strength to resist the urges in those cases.

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