

Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by Bigmoish - 22 Dec 2015 21:56

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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 Shlomo24 - 28 Dec 2015 15:58

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[doingtshuva wrote:](#)

Whats the point of the thread?

If it's selfish, then.....

If not, then.....

are we sellingfish

lol. there is a point of this thread and it was accomplished for the most part.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by waydown - 28 Dec 2015 17:56

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For the most part most respondents have not defined selfish correctly.

Selfish is when one seeks to please himself **while disregarding others**. Most of you have left out the crucial condition of that its must harm others.

If the question were is masturbation "self seeking" or the opposite of selflessness? Then I would vote a resounding yes. Since that doesn't require "harming others".

Why is "harming others" so crucial? Because that's what one of the recovery methods are about.

So lets rephrase the question Moish If I may. Does masturbating harm others? If so why? And specifically how about a single man who masturbates? Whom is he harming?

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?  
Posted by Bigmoish - 28 Dec 2015 18:05

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Why are you rephrasing the question? I already told you on your own thread to stop distorting my words. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?  
Posted by cordnoy - 28 Dec 2015 18:10

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[waydown wrote:](#)

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excuse me!

you defined it one way.

others have not.

excessive focusin' on oneself is bein' self-centered, and somethin' one should work on,

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by cordnoy - 28 Dec 2015 18:12

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[waydown wrote:](#)

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So lets rephrase the question Moish If I may. Does masturbating harm others? If so why? And specifically how about a single man who masturbates? Whom is he harming?

and like many posters above and in other threads have written, it has plenty of effects on others in a harmful way.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?  
Posted by eslaasos - 28 Dec 2015 18:13

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[waydown wrote:](#)

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If the question were is masturbation "self seeking" or the opposite of selflessness? Then I would vote a resounding yes. Since that doesn't require "harming others".

Why is "harming others" so crucial? Because that's what one of the recovery methods are about.

So lets rephrase the question Moish If I may. Does masturbating harm others? If so why? And specifically how about a single man who masturbates? Whom is he harming?

You took a quote from the dictionary and then corrupted it.

According to your quoted definition, selfishness is acting in your own interests with no regard for others. That is not the same thing as harming others as you blithely protest.

You have made this mistake over and over again in the interests of protecting your viewpoint that you are not a selfish person.

It is entirely normal to be a nice helpful guy who selflessly cleans the toilets and then later commits a heinously selfish act.

To answer your other question, a single man who masturbates is reinforcing a powerfully negative habit that harms:

1. Himself
2. His future wife and children

Assuming he is Jewish, his actions have a ripple effect that also harms

3. the rest of the world
4. Klal Yisroel specifically

Last point - please clarify why it is so crucial to recovery to determine if his actions fit the dictionary's definition of selfish or not (which they do).

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by waydown - 28 Dec 2015 18:26

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Re "please clarify why it is so crucial to recovery to determine if his actions fit the dictionary's definition of selfish or not (which they do)."

Again recovery is all about letting go of resentment. Making a list of who we harmed and how we should correct it. Its about thinking and caring for others.

Cords said,

excuse me!

you defined it one way.

others have not.

excessive focusin' on oneself is bein' self-centered, and somethin' one should work on,

Honestly you can define "selfish" however you wish. If you want to define it as only harming oneself that's fine. And I vote yes if that's the case. And I totally vote yes to corde statement that its "excessive focusin' on oneself is bein' self-centered, and somethin' one should work on". Sure work on not focusin on onself. A thousand percent.

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

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by waydown - 28 Dec 2015 18:33

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Eislassos,

To answer your other question, a single man who masturbates is reinforcing a powerfully

negative habit that harms:

1. Himself
2. His future wife and children

So if a guy remains single for life he is not hurting anyone? I don't mean to nitpick rather my point is that masturbation in it of itself doesn't necessarily harm others albeit it can lead to harming others. Yes If one is hooked smoker it can harm his wife & kids if he has to suffer thru cancer and/ or lo alinu misa. It just sounds a bit far stretched to say that a 17 yr old who thinks he is just enjoying life now is harming others because at age 23 he will be married and won't know how to stop.

Also if you are jewish all averious including loshson hara are selfish. Perhaps you are suggesting that masturbation causes more harm than other averious. (I don't know it creates bad malchilm and katriguim on klall yisroell) So its more selfish. Again its hard to relate to spiritual harm in the context of harming others. I will concede that from a jewish point of view you are harming others.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?  
Posted by eslaasos - 28 Dec 2015 18:41

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[waydown wrote:](#)

Re "please clarify why it is so crucial to recovery to determine if his actions fit the dictionary's definition of selfish or not (which they do)."

Again recovery is all about letting go of resentment. Making a list of who we harmed and how we should correct it. Its about thinking and caring for others.

So outside of masturbation where you have a daas yochid that it's not selfish you have nothing you can put on your step 4 list?

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by eslaasos - 28 Dec 2015 18:43

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[waydown wrote:](#)

Eislassos,

To answer your other question, a single man who masturbates is reinforcing a powerfully negative habit that harms:

**1. Himself**

2. His future wife and children

So if a guy remains single for life he is not hurting anyone?

Hello, did you miss the item # 1 above?

I don't mean to nitpick rather my point is that masturbation in it of itself **doesn't necessarily harm others** albeit it can lead to harming others. Yes If one is hooked smoker it can harm his wife & kids if he has to suffer thru cancer and/ or lo alinu misa. It just sounds a bit far stretched to say that a 17 yr old who thinks he is just enjoying life now is harming others because at age 23 he will be married and won't know how to stop.

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bad malchilm and katriguim on klall yisroell) So its more selfish. Again its hard to relate to spiritual harm in the context of harming others. **I will concede that from a jewish point of view you are harming others.**

Are you Jewish?

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by Watson - 28 Dec 2015 20:24

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I haven't read every post here so apologies if this has been said.

In practical terms, it was not immediately obvious to me how much my acting out really did affect the people around me, but this has become clearer in recovery. I could elaborate for very long time on this and still not be done so I'll leave it there.

From a different perspective, it is said that masturbation delays the final geulah and all the things that the final geulah would bring us all, so yeah, pretty selfish.

Now, I have a question. Has this knowledge ever kept anyone here sober? I would concede that it may have contributed towards people trying to quit in the first place, but my question is, has it ever helped the quitting process?

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by cordnoy - 28 Dec 2015 21:23

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[waydown wrote:](#)

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

Please explain this question.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?  
Posted by Shlomo24 - 29 Dec 2015 00:20

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[Watson wrote:](#)

Now, I have a question. Has this knowledge ever kept anyone here sober? I would concede that it may have contributed towards people trying to quit in the first place, but my question is, has it ever helped the quitting process?

Are you referring in general in terms of knowledge or just if this thread has tachlis? I venture two answers:

- 1) "Self - knowledge availed us nothing" - Big Book.
- 2) There is a tachlis of this thread, even if self- knowledge availed us nothing.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?  
Posted by eslaasos - 29 Dec 2015 17:46

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[Watson wrote:](#)

I haven't read every post here so apologies if this has been said.

In practical terms, it was not immediately obvious to me how much my acting out really did affect the people around me, but this has become clearer in recovery. I could elaborate for very long time on this and still not be done so I'll leave it there.

From a different perspective, it is said that masturbation delays the final geulah and all the things that the final geulah would bring us all, so yeah, pretty selfish.

Now, I have a question. Has this knowledge ever kept anyone here sober? I would concede that it may have contributed towards people trying to quit in the first place, but my question is, has it ever helped the quitting process?

Speaking for myself I would say yes.

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.

Unless I'm in complete denial (slightly possible but not likely), self-knowledge availed me

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sometimes. All my buddies here - please call me out if you disagree. The rest of you can also