

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 stillgoing - 13 Jan 2016 23:41

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ok, I'm sure this has been quoted somewhere on the forums before, but goggle definition of selfish is

(of a person, action, or motive) lacking consideration for others; concerned chiefly with one's own personal profit or pleasure.

One does not need to be hurting others in order to be called selfish.

When I am eating pizza for any reason other than having energy to help others or serve Hashem (which is usually the case by me with pizza) I am "lacking consideration for others; concerned chiefly with my own personal profit or pleasure."

When I am going on a trip for any reason other than clearing my mind in order to help others or serve Hashem I am "lacking consideration for others; concerned chiefly with my own personal profit or pleasure."

When I am mz'l for any reason I am "lacking consideration for others; concerned chiefly with my own personal profit or pleasure."

Selfish is not automatically a terrible thing, sometimes we may feel that we need to do something for ourselves. It can be selfish, but it can be kosher.  
Being 100% selfLESS is a beautiful thing, but lets be realistic, Most people are not holding there now.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?  
Posted by pomodoro - 15 Jan 2016 15:10

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Pornography and masturbation are not selfish in themselves.

They are the release of all our worldly passions.

The very passions are the ones that are selfish and the ones that lead us to misery.

Passions are from the very moment they are felt, despicable and worthless.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?  
Posted by Bigmoish - 15 Jan 2016 15:28

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[pomodoro wrote:](#)

Pornography and masturbation are not selfish in themselves.

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The very passions are the ones that are selfish and the ones that lead us to misery.

Passions are from the very moment they are felt, despicable and worthless.

I don't understand this post, but thank you for sharing your opinion. Hopefully others can gain from your insight.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by pomodoro - 22 Jan 2016 19:05

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Pornography and masturbation are not selfish in themselves.

They are the release of all our worldly passions.

The very passions and lustful desires are the ones that are selfish and the ones that lead us to misery.

Passions and lustful desires are from the very moment they are felt in our minds, despicable and worthless.

Passions and lustful desires are the very enemies of our souls.

We were born with clean and happy souls. In time, they turn polluted and miserable by means of our unrestrained lustful desires and sex passions.

How could we fight such a powerful enemy in which the pleasure anticipates to the joy in every moment of voluptuousness??

That is to say, the expectation and excitement of every lustful desire, the drunkenness of every passion??

We might want to think about self-honesty and integrity in our minds rather than what is right or not if the latter no longer makes a sense for us.

Are robbery and beating someone selfish??

No, I would say no, they are undoubtedly bad, rather what is selfish is unrestrained greediness and rage in our minds.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by pomodoro - 22 Jan 2016 19:43

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by pomodoro - 22 Jan 2016 19:58

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[Lizhensk wrote:](#)

From the 12&12:

CREATION gave us instincts for a purpose. Without them we wouldn't be complete human beings. If men and women didn't exert themselves to be secure in their persons, made no effort to harvest food or construct shelter, there would be no survival. If they didn't reproduce, the earth wouldn't be populated. If there were no social instinct, if men cared nothing for the society of one another, there would be no society. So these desires—for the sex relation, for material and emotional security, and for companionship—are perfectly necessary and right, and surely God-given. Yet these instincts, so necessary for our existence, often far exceed their proper functions. Powerfully, blindly, many times subtly, they drive us, dominate us, and insist upon ruling our lives. Our desires for sex, for material and emotional security, and for an important place in society often tyrannize us. When thus out of joint, man's natural desires cause him great trouble, practically all the trouble there is. No human being, however good, is exempt from these troubles. Nearly every serious emotional problem can be seen as a case of misdirected instinct. When that happens, our great natural assets, the instincts, have turned into physical and mental liabilities.

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let's have a closer look at what the basic problem is. Simple examples like the following take on a world of meaning when we think about them. Suppose a person places sex desire ahead of everything else. In such a case, this imperious urge can destroy his chances for material and emotional security as well as his standing in the community. Another may develop such an obsession for financial security that he wants to do nothing but hoard money. Going to the extreme, he can become a miser, or even a recluse who denies himself both family and friends. Nor is the quest for security always expressed in terms of money. How frequently we see a frightened human being determined to depend completely upon a stronger person for guidance and protection. This weak one, failing to meet life's responsibilities with his own resources, never grows up. Disillusionment and helplessness are his lot. In time all his protectors either flee or die, and he is once more left alone and afraid. We have also seen men and women who go powermad, who devote themselves to attempting to rule their fellows. These people often throw to the winds every chance for legitimate security and a happy family life. Whenever a human being becomes a battleground for the instincts, there can be no peace. But that is not all of the danger. Every time a person imposes his instincts unreasonably upon others, unhappiness follows. If the pursuit of wealth tramples upon people who happen to be in the way, then anger, jealousy, and revenge are likely to be aroused. If sex runs riot, there is a similar uproar. Demands made upon other people for too much attention, protection, and love can only invite domination or revulsion in the protectors themselves—two emotions quite as unhealthy as the demands which evoked them. When an individual's desire for prestige becomes uncontrollable,

whether in the sewing circle or at the international conference table, other people suffer and often revolt. This collision of instincts can produce anything from a cold snub t to a blazing revolution. In these ways we are set in conflict not only with ourselves, but with other people who have instincts, too.

What I took out of this, was that anything taken to the extreme, is harmful and selfish. And will wreak havoc on my life (and always has, I was just too blind to see it)

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by pomodoro - 22 Jan 2016 20:00

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What I took out of this, was that anything taken to the extreme, is harmful and selfish. And will wreak havoc on my life (and always has, I was just too blind to see it)[/quote]

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by pomodoro - 22 Jan 2016 20:02

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[Lizhensk wrote:](#)

What I took out of this, was that anything taken to the extreme, is harmful and selfish. And will wreak havoc on my life (and always has, I was just too blind to see it)

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by pomodoro - 22 Jan 2016 20:04

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[Lizhensk wrote:](#)

What I took out of this, was that anything taken to the extreme, is harmful and selfish. And will wreak havoc on my life (and always has, I was just too blind to see it)

Lizhensk, I have mixed feeling about what you said:

There is no need to take something to the extreme to be it selfish.

Related to sex, the very fact of temptation, can be harmful.

If we don't take the rejection seriously, we quickly fall into absorbing and accepting the temptation.

Temptation is not in itself "in extreme", rather it exists or not.

If we are not reassured in immediately get rid of it, the very temptation dominates us and in the long run, leads us to misery.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by cordnoy - 14 Mar 2017 13:17

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[cordnoy wrote on 24 Dec 2015 01:57:](#)

Rav Dessler in short:

chesed and brachah is the same. "Taking" and curse are identical.

Lovin' oneself and takin' somethin' from the outside towards himself is the root of all troubles....jealousy, wars, stealin'.

Wherever you find people takin', you will find destruction and curse.

The opposite id the power of givin' - the power of chesed.

One who extends himself towards others or to his surroundin's (Reb Shimon Shkop on v'ahavta l'reiacha camocha - is extendin' the 'ani' to include others), or to do good with others....this is blessin'.

Canaan is 'arur,' for they are the biggest takers.

All desires are a toladah of the power of takin'.

was lookin' for somethin' else, and I found this: also good.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by Shlomo24 - 14 Mar 2017 14:07

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I remember this thread.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by hudaugen - 14 Mar 2017 15:02

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No doubt absolutely selfish. You only think of yourself and how to please yourself and the same goes with Pornography - by watching it you also harm others who have to act in it. The ones who say it is not selfish have not tried stopping and see what it feels like not doing it.

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?

Posted by RaabosMachshovos - 15 Mar 2017 13:23

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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

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Re: Is pornography and masturbation selfish?  
Posted by cordnoy - 15 Mar 2017 13:43

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

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