

On the Pervasive Harm of Pornography in the Digital Age

2025 BGCT Annual Meeting, Abilene, Nov. 16-18

WHEREAS, the Bible teaches that all people are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), and that God's design for human sexuality is to be expressed only within the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6; Hebrews 13:4); and

WHEREAS the messengers of Texas Baptists have not spoken to the issue of pornography since 1986; and

WHEREAS the digitization of pornographic materials, including through Artificial Intelligence (AI), has fundamentally shifted the capacity and reach of the pornographic industry, which is predatory in nature; and

WHEREAS pornography, whether in print, digital, livestream, virtual reality, AI-generated, or through any emerging technology, distorts God's design for physical intimacy, reduces persons created in God's image to objects, fuels lust rather than love, and promotes forms of sexual exploitation that harm individuals, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS the modern online environment has made pornographic content more accessible than at any other time in history, including through mobile devices, social media platforms, video games, AI, virtual companions, and other technologies often marketed to and easily accessible by children and adolescents; and

WHEREAS research continues to demonstrate that pornography contributes to relational strife, distorted expectations about sex and relationships, addictive behaviors, violence, and dehumanizing attitudes, particularly toward women and children; and

WHEREAS pornography is increasingly recognized as a public health crisis, affecting not only individuals in the broader culture but also members, leaders, and families within our churches, producing cycles of shame, secrecy, and spiritual struggle; and

WHEREAS Christians are called to protect the vulnerable, especially children (Matthew 18:6), to expose the works of darkness (Ephesians 5:11), and to walk in the light of God's grace, truth, repentance, and restoration (1 John 1:7-9);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, meeting in Abilene, TX, on November 16-18, 2025, express our lament over the proliferation of pornographic material across digital platforms and emerging technologies, and its destructive effects on the moral and spiritual fabric of our churches and communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Texas Baptists commit to leading out in opposing the plague of pornography, recognizing that this is an issue of the heart that demands a repentant, biblical, compassionate, prophetic, pastoral, and redemptive response;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage our churches to advocate for state and local policies that meaningfully restrict the access of minors to pornographic websites and digital content, to support age-verification laws and accountability measures, and to collaborate responsibly with public officials, educators, and child-protection agencies for the welfare of children;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge pastors, parents, and congregations to lovingly provide clear biblical teaching on human sexuality, to equip families with tools to navigate online safety, and to cultivate environments where sin can be confessed without fear of condemnation, in order that healing, repentance, accountability, and restoration may flourish;

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we affirm that no one is beyond the reach of Jesus' redeeming grace, and we encourage our churches to extend Christlike love, support, and restoration to all who are struggling with pornography, working diligently to bring this hidden sin into the light so that men, women, and children may find freedom and renewal in Christ.