

## No. 11 Needs in Our Branch Territory

*Note to the speaker:*

Talk with audience participation. Encourage the brothers to maintain their resolve to remain morally and spiritually clean

### WHAT WE SEE AFFECTS US (2 min.)

Commercial advertisers well know the power of eye appeal

They spend millions of dollars each year and are successfully motivating the public to buy what they promote

Satan understands that what we see with our eyes can intensify our ambitions and desires of the heart (*lv* 65-66 ¶10-11)

Eve, disobedient angels, and Achan all suffered disastrous consequences for allowing their eyes to dwell on things that were forbidden (Ge 3:6; 6:2; Jos 7:20, 21)

It is imperative that we, as appointed men, take this to heart and restrain our eyes from looking at anything worthless! **[Read Psalm 119:37]**

### IMMORAL ENTERTAINMENT IS WORTHLESS (15 min.)

Appointed men are not immune to the desire of the eyes and flesh

We must exercise self-restraint as did Job **[Read Job 31:1]**

Today, many view pornography in magazines, on television, or on the Internet

The branch office continues to receive reports that appointed men have become involved in deliberately viewing pornography

Pornography is one of Satan's most effective devices to corrupt the mind and heart (2Co 11:3)

We must maintain "a clean conscience" (1Ti 3:9)

If the conscience becomes warped, it becomes unreliable and can send out defective messages

Even a temporary or an accidental brush with pornography can bring sad consequences

Pornographic images linger (*lv* 71-72 ¶19)

A guilty conscience and feelings of worthlessness are extremely difficult to alleviate

The problem is compounded if the appointed man is married

If his wife discovers that he is viewing pornography, she can be made to feel cheap, dishonored, and emotionally damaged

**Situation:** While using the Internet, a brother begins to pay attention to advertisements to enter pornographic websites

#### Questions:

1. How can **James 1:14, 15** help the brother to avoid taking the next step? **[Read]**
2. According to **Romans 12:9**, unhypocritical love for God's moral standards requires what action? **[Read]**
3. If his curiosity moves him to enter the pornographic websites, what might this reveal about him according to **Matthew 15:18, 19**? **[Read]**

**Question:** If an elder or ministerial servant has developed a pattern of deliberately viewing pornography, what Scriptural qualifications listed at 1 Timothy 3:2, 7-9 and Titus 1:6-8 would be called into question?

The body of elders should not minimize the need to establish the facts and then consider the brother's qualifications. The steps to be followed were reviewed in the part "Making Recommendations—A Serious Responsibility (Part 2)." [With regard to pornography, remind the elders to be guided by the April 10, 2012, letter to all bodies of elders, particularly the subheading on

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considering qualifications to continue serving. As time allows, cite some of the factors to be considered that are outlined in that section]

To maintain God's viewpoint, we must be resolved to reject pornography in any form (w06 8/1 25 ¶20)

We do not even want to get close to unclean entertainment (Isa 52:11)

Make every effort to examine your heart objectively (Jer 17:9)

Although Paul wanted to do what was right, he acknowledged his weaknesses (Ro 7:18, 22)

Be willing to face up to your weaknesses, acknowledge them, and then work at conquering them

If you are struggling with this unclean practice, pray to Jehovah to give you the strength to do what is right

This includes seeking the help of your fellow elders, who will deal with you in a loving manner

You can then restore your relationship with Jehovah and enjoy peace of mind and heart

### **VIOLENT ENTERTAINMENT IS WORTHLESS** (10 min.)

The world today is infatuated with and saturated with violence

Violence is featured in music, video games, movies, websites, sports, and even the news

An *Awake!* article noted: “‘If it bleeds, it leads’ is the guiding principle for many TV-news producers. News is big business, and newsmen know that violence attracts viewers” (g 8/12 5)

Appointed men are not immune to the effects of violent entertainment

Filling our minds with such entertainment is deadly

It can affect our relationships with others, causing us to display a violent, combative spirit

We begin to take on the characteristics of those we allow to entertain us (Pr 13:20)

**Situation:** An elder or ministerial servant views movies and television shows that feature violence and bloodshed. At first, he was offended by the violence. But after a while, it did not affect him as much

**Question:** How might **2 Corinthians 2:11 and its footnotes** and **Psalms 11:5** help this brother to reevaluate his entertainment? **[READ]**

Our mind should be held captive by Christ, not by entertainment that promotes violence, bloodshed, and death **[Read 2 Corinthians 10:5]**

All such entertainment is “good-for-nothing,” “worthless” (Ps 101:3, fn.)

Appointed brothers who are fathers have a responsibility before Jehovah and their family to set an example in being selective

They must also carefully monitor what their children are allowed to view

### **LIVE UP TO YOUR DEDICATION, AND MAINTAIN A GOOD CONSCIENCE** (3 min.)

You cannot avoid seeing some worthless things, even as Jesus had such set before him (Mt 4:8)

Nonetheless, Jesus refused to let his heart be enticed, not even contemplating the Devil's offer **[Read Matthew 4:10]**

Our dedication includes a solemn promise to adhere to Jehovah's Word and turn away from what is worthless **[Read Psalm 119:101]**

Do not wait for a confrontation; decide now that you will restrain your eyes from looking at anything worthless (lv 73 ¶23)

At your baptism, Jehovah granted your request for a good conscience

As long as you maintain a good conscience, heeding its proddings, you remain in a saved condition and will not suffer Jehovah's adverse judgment

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Living up to your dedication will result in your being preserved alive in Jehovah's own way (Ps 119:37)

For the sake of Jehovah's name, your family, and the congregation, be resolved never to be entertained by what is worthless!

**LOCAL NEEDS** (14 min.)

[Introduce the next part on the program]

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TO BE COVERED IN 44 MINUTES