

Sex, Pornography and Children

We have a thriving industry in the production, sharing and storage of child pornography images and videos, never mind an even more prosperous market in child sexual exploitation itself.

There are plenty of studies out there that try to get a handle on this. That each of them seems to offer a different conclusion and varying remedies keeps the question open. Everybody is just so sure their own approach is the only one that will work. Then again, some deny it's a problem at all, except that we have a patchwork of conflicting laws across the country, and even more conflicting laws between various allied nations that share some effort to quash the trade in child pornography.

This document makes no pretense of entering that debate. That's because the problem is built into our civilization as a whole. For all our noise and expense trying to stop child pornography, we fail to recognize that it is the natural result of what makes our civilization what it is. It will never, ever be eradicated. We cling to the fatal flaw that creates the problem.

Western Civilization is inherently materialistic. The fundamental assumption is that this life is all we have. Regardless of whatever theories we might proclaim, and despite a wealth of religious teaching about the afterlife, the very structure of our assumptions about reality excludes a genuine acceptance of anything beyond this universe of material existence. When you paint biblical declarations on top of such a core, you cannot help but come up with a failed theology. You have no grounds for understanding why things are the way they are, and everything taught in Scripture gets perverted and twisted out of shape.

Once you step outside of those false assumptions, it's not so hard to understand problems like child pornography and molestation. We don't even have to get into biblical theology from an Ancient Hebrew intellectual approach. All we have to do is understand why a materialistic viewpoint creates its own problems.

Materialism naturally makes us fear death. We value this life and try to make the most of it while we can. In essence, we worship youth, or at least youthfulness. We strive to prolong, not just life, but youth itself. Placing a premium on youth as the best, most sacred time of life naturally creates some serious psychosis in society.

On the one hand, we have parents who frantically strive to protect their precious children. More, they strive to envelope the whole period of childhood in some deep aura of holiness and ultimate value. It's not just a phase of our existence on the way to eternity, with a normal acceptance of the grave, but a deep and abiding fear that something will spoil the precious period of youth. It has to be perfect!

And it never is, because the psychosis of materialistic parenting guarantees the kids are driven nuts. Parents create a massive and unshakable mythology about what simply must be during that period of life and fight madly against what is actually quite natural.

So a lot of people come through childhood and adolescence badly damaged. They enter adulthood with a lot of unfinished business, a vast wealth of disappointments mixed with perverted expectations. They keep trying to go back and reclaim what was lost, but it's not there. It never was. Even if they go on to a measure of adult success and fulfillment, many struggle to keep that unfinished business out of conscious recognition.

It's no surprise that some fail. They look for ways to go back and rescue that ideal childhood. A portion of those will come to believe that sex with children is the answer, or at least part of it. While it's impossible to get an honest report on the numbers, you get the sense that most adults would favor it if it weren't so deeply forbidden. That is, it is both the most hideous and illegal act and at the same time just about everyone's wish. Some portion of our adult population will always be ready for a sexual merry-go-round ride, though. Consider how much of human sexuality is sold in various forms as entertainment itself as one might any other youthful lark.

On the one hand, we have an increasingly frantic attempt to make it impossible in the practical sense to molest children. A whole range of quite normal human relational activity is treated as suspicious, or threatening. At the same time, we have a world of advertising and entertainment making it all the more desirable. Pole dancing toys and makeup for little girls? Unrequited desire is what sells best of all.

So there you have it. As long as we have Western Civilization, we will have pedophilia. It's native. That's not to say other kinds of civilizations or societies don't have it, but that it has a totally different meaning for them. Ours is so deeply depraved in materialism that we simply have no room to judge others.

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