

4 Aug 2001

[How to stop sinning with pornography?](#)

Submitted by theshovel

Hello, you asked:

...give me some practical advice on how I can be born again and stop sinning anonymous

I have to ask you some questions in order to answer your questions: 1) What does it mean to you to be "born again"? 2) Is the practical advice you seek on how to "stop sinning" specifically related to porn and masturbation? 3) Do you see yourself doing well otherwise? 4) Why do you think you are ashamed and full of guilt? 5) What do you mean when you say "I will do it right now"? 6) How do you think the work of Christ fits into your problem? 7) Where does this fear of "being punished forever in due payment of my sins" come from if Christ has already made the due payment of your sins? Sincerely, Jim Minker

Hello again!! Now, before I begin it is very important that you do not lose your concentration by thinking of monkeys, okay? The questions I asked in my first email were more for you than for me. I bet you didn't realize that, huh? :) Of course I did want to know more about what you were asking and I wanted to make sure of a few things you wrote, but mostly I wanted you to hear how you answered the questions. Did you notice a progression to the questions? By the way, when I said not to think about monkeys, I meant all kinds of monkeys, as in apes, gorillas, orangutans, baboons, chimps, and especially spider monkeys. So, are you paying attention? Your first email and your answers to my questions in the second email reveal that you are focused on sin. Even as I asked you how Christ fit into the picture with His complete payment of sin you still spoke of facing your sins. You wrote:

...since that time way back in May I have been offending with my presence and my words many dear people like my mother, my brothers and sisters, and various friends anonymous

Do you not understand why that would be? Hey, don't think of King Kong, either! Focus, Grasshopper!! Doesn't it seem a little strange to you that you would define the term "born again" by the meaning of "to stop sinning"? Now, you indicate that you have studied the Bible quite a bit, and I believe you, so why would you use this fantastic phrase describing the miraculous birth of the Spirit of God to mean "stop sinning"? This is what I call "sin-conscious". Okay, so why have I been interjecting those silly comments about monkeys? Simple, to illustrate a point. Were you thinking about monkeys before you started reading my email? Did you think about monkeys or perhaps even picture them as I told you NOT to think about them? Did you see some spider monkeys or maybe King Kong in your imagination? You see, my demands that you NOT think about monkeys actually produced the opposite effect in you. So it is with sin and the law. Are you following me? Awaiting your reply, Jim Minker :)

I am focused mostly on myself, not on Jesus Christ's merits and works of grace. Forgive me, Jim, that shows me that I have to emphasize on the positive, not the negative. anonymous

Hello my friend, So, do you actually think that by emphasizing the positive and not the negative will solve your problems? Not a chance. People have tried that for years on end. Now, the real problem may find another way to express itself, but it won't go away by attempting to avoid it. You have mentioned "self-righteousness", and I have no doubt you are accurate in your assessment, but self-righteousness is stirred up by something else. Any ideas?

Thanks for your useful insight about 1 John 4:19 in your latest newsletter. That is one of my dearest verses in the Bible. anonymous

I'm glad you enjoyed it. :)

Jim, feel free to contact me anytime regarding my wrong thinking, and don't forget to express freely all the advice you have in store for me as God puts it in your heart. anonymous

I'm not as much concerned about your "wrong thinking" as I am about the lack of LIVING thinking. And I will definitely keep up with you, bro! Jim Minker

Just so you know, my brother, I am not trying to trick you in any way with my questions, but instead I simply want to stir up that righteous mind of Christ that has been put within you. :)

You really got me this time, Jim. I honestly don't have any idea about what stirs up "self-righteousness". If you are not talking about the "heart" of a sinner, maybe you refer to "pride" or "egotatry". Excuses, trying to justify myself, judging others constantly are some of the most common sins in my heart. anonymous

The fact is that the cause of our problem is usually the "remedy" we use to get rid of it.

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; 1 Corinthians 15:56

THE POWER OF SIN IS THE LAW. You see, it doesn't make any difference if you take one of God's own laws that He gave to the Jews or if you make up your own, it will still affect you the same. You see, this forming of their own law-standards is exactly what the Corinthians were doing as they began to compare themselves with one another. All their problems that we read all through the letter were caused by their fleshly mindset which was stimulated by this law-mentality that came from measuring themselves by themselves. If you want to read a little more on how this principle operates, check out this link: [Licensed to Sin?](#) My brother, I look forward to hearing more from you!! :)
Jim

I didn't hear back from him after this

Related Content: [sin-conscious](#)
[sin and law](#)
[addicted to pornography](#)
[lust](#)

Source URL: <http://theshovel.net/qa/sexual-issues/how-to-stop-sinning-with-pornography>