

BATTLE PRIMER



Roots Matter

By Paul Klassen, Executive Director

Importance of Roots

We have a river birch tree in our front yard and have recently done some landscaping near it. In order to do what we wanted to do, we had to cut through a near-the-surface root of that tree. After finishing the project, we noticed a bunch of water pooling on the edge of our newly landscaped area. It hadn't been raining. We had not watered the area. We figured it out: the roots of this tree had so much water in them that they produced that pool of water! In fact, they were so faithful in keeping the tree alive, that it took over a week for it to stop!

Good Roots - Growing Grace

The roots of a growing faith in Jesus Christ were implanted at the moment of salvation, at the same time that the roots of sin were cut off. Romans 6 details the ridiculousness of any

attitude that sees grace as some sort of permission to draw from the old roots. For those who have repented of their sins and trust Jesus' death as their payment, the Apostle Paul says, *"sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace."* (v. 14). We have a new master; we draw from a new source for life that is truly life. Verse 13 gives us the key to drawing on this gracious root system that God has given us: *"Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life and your members to God as instruments for righteousness."* We draw from His roots and grow up like "Psalm One" trees when we daily repent of our sins and daily offer ourselves to God (see Psalm 1:1-3)

Alternative Roots - Dying Human Race

We are living in a world (and many children only know this world) where public sexual expression is encouraged and where gender is fluid and where any boundaries that anybody puts on sex is seen as restrictive and even wrong. The movie "Sound of Freedom" comes out on July 4. It is based on a true story of a man who quit his Homeland Security job in order to rescue thousands of children from trafficking all over the world. It looks like a riveting story that ought to serve as a wake up call to how our sexualized culture has contributed to this monster called human trafficking. A September, 2022 article of The Asservo Project (1) clarifies the link between sex trafficking and pornography like this: "Like any industry, legitimate or not, human trafficking relies on supply and demand. If there is demand for a product, then business owners produce a supply. . . Pornography sets the stage for what the customer wants. As Fight the New Drug reports from research, porn viewers can become desensitized toward sexual violence and, as a result, become more willing to purchase sex. A demand to purchase sex drives supply . . ." They succinctly conclude, "Viewers of pornography help to create the demand for sex trafficking, and sex trafficking provides supply for pornography."

When we cut off the root of pornography in a person's life, we must keep guard with them, because that root will keep producing energy that they think they need. My tree in the

front yard did not die because I cut through one of its roots. Just like trees, the “sexual identity” problem that our culture has cannot be easily cut off. As a ministry, Broken Strength does not plan to push toward the creation of laws that make porn illegal. **Instead, we’re here to bring it to a lifeless end through the power of God’s grace changing one life at a time, one church at a time, one community at a time.**

From where are your roots drawing life today?

We thank God for . . .

- Many conversations started and continuing in churches.
- New relationships and new events (see below)
- Almost 50 churches in MN and WI who have had events or are in discussions about it.
- Joe Smith (former director and current board chair), his continued passion for this cause, and his connections with nationwide church networks that will allow us to multiply and offer this ministry without charge.

We ask God for . . .

- Guidance, direction, and protection regarding 5 Scheduled Purity Events and 4 other churches that will probably have one this fall.
- The right words and Holy Spirit’s leading at various scheduled speaking engagements for Joe and Paul.
- Heightened awareness in our culture, and especially our churches, regarding the destructiveness of pornography and its far-reaching deadly tentacles.
- Courage and discernment on how to address this with God’s strength and wisdom and not in our power or with just our know-how.

We invite you . . .

- *Do you know somebody that would like to be informed and added to our prayer team?* Send an email to pklassen@apathtopurity.org

- *Would you like to help us continue to offer our events without charge and any materials at our cost?* You may donate to the ministry at www.apathtopurity.org

Bibliography

1. <https://www.theasservoproject.org/pornography-and-human-trafficking/>