

“Improper Touching”

by Bill Crews

Child pornography is alive and well. All pornography is disgusting and should be repulsive to all people who have character and principles. It is certainly condemned in the Scriptures (Galatians 5:19-21 —among the *“works of the flesh,”* which will keep one from inheriting the kingdom of God, are *“fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness”*; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 condemns *“fornicators,” “adulterers,” “sodomites,”* and *“homosexuals”*); add to these Colossians 3:5-6; Romans 1:24-27; Revelation 13:4; Revelation 21:8; 22:15 and 1 Timothy 1:8-10).

Are such things as the sexual abuse of children, manipulating and coercing of children in producing child pornography, and the traffic in child pornography on the rise, or far worse than they have ever been? I do not know; it may well be that they are. I know that we are hearing that the sexual exploitation and abuse of children are far more common than we realize. And we have far more calls to educate and warn our children that these might be prevented. We are hearing so much about “improper touching.” It is identified, and children are encouraged to report such incidents to someone whom they can trust to deal with it and stop it. I have no quarrel with efforts to protect children, but we need to be consistent in this matter of identifying and condemning “improper touching.” A great deal of “improper touching” goes on among adolescents and adults. It may be consensual or otherwise, but it is just as wrong as that referred to above.

We need to warn and to teach our adolescents about improper touching. And we need to warn and teach all accountable adults about improper touching. Not until a man and a woman love each other and are married can it be said in truth, *“The wife hath not power over her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power over his own body, but the wife”* (1 Corinthians 7:4). When boys and girls get involved in **“heavy petting,”** passionate groping, or any activities involving sexual stimulation or satisfaction, they sin. That is “improper touching.” When two people who are not married to each other (and I do not mean simply “in the eyes of the law,” but also in the sight of God) live together as if they were, that is “improper touching” and worse. The Bible condemns lasciviousness, sexual immorality, adultery, fornication, and homosexual acts. The Bible calls upon us to keep ourselves pure (1 Timothy 5:22), to resist the reign of sin in our physical bodies (Romans 6:12-13), to buffet the body and bring it under subjection (1 Corinthians 9:27). The Bible says to the woman (and the same principle applies to the man) who has departed from her husband, *“Let her remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband”* (1 Corinthians 7: 11).

We live in a society that cries out against the “improper touching” of children by others while endorsing all manner of improper touching among others.

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