

VII — PORNOGRAPHY AND OBSCENITY

DEFINITIONS:

Pornography: From the Greek words *porne* (harlot) and *graphos* (writing). Webster's Dictionary defines pornography as: (1) originally a description of prostitutes and their trade; (2) writings, pictures, etc. intended to arouse sexual desire.

Obscenity: From the Latin word *obscenus* ("ob" means to, "caenum" means filth). Webster's Dictionary defines obscene as: (1) offensive to modesty or decency, lewd, impure; (2) foul, filthy, repulsive, disgusting.

WHEREAS the multi-billion-dollar pornography industry in America has grown and continues to grow in epidemic proportions and is invading and affecting every segment of society; and

WHEREAS the lifestyle advocated by the pornography industry is in direct conflict with the holy living that is taught in the Word of God; and

WHEREAS family, church and community values and relationships are being seriously affected by this industry; and

WHEREAS the Supreme Court in 1973 reaffirmed that a community does have the right to establish and protect its standards; and

WHEREAS there is an alarming increase in teenage pregnancies, child prostitution, sexual assaults upon women and children, and the demeaning of persons in direct proportion to the degeneration of biblical moral values;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that members and adherents of the Missionary Church unite their efforts and energies with organizations such as the National Consultation on Pornography, Inc., National Federation of Decency by Law, and other like agencies to defeat all forms of pornography.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge our people to become aware of the magnitude of the problem and become involved in community plans to exercise a positive voice through actions such as the boycotting of products, publications, TV programs and places of business that promote this cancer on our society; and finally

BE IT RESOLVED that our people write to the president of the United States—

1. Thanking him for his own stand against the pornographic industry in this country.
2. Requesting him to order the Justice Department to enforce obscenity laws which are already on the books.
3. Assuring him of our prayers and support in this effort.

— Adopted by the 1985 General Conference