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NEWS

Porn debate held at Rock Church

By [pointweeklyeditor](#) · October 10, 2010 ·  [Print This Post](#) · [Post a comment](#)



Ron Jeremy and Miles McPherson participated in the Great Porn Debate at San Diego's Rock Church on Saturday, October 9

By Brad Hernandez

So a porn star walks into a church...

Sound like the lead to a bad joke? Not so. This was pure, or not so pure, reality Saturday evening as the Rock Church of San Diego hosted "The Great Porn Debate," a discussion between porn star Ron Jeremy and Pastor Craig Gross. The debate focused on the effects of pornography and whether it is a "harmless business" or a "dangerous addiction."

Gross is the pastor of XXXchurch and founder of XXXchurch.com, a website dedicated to the recovery of those addicted to pornography through spiritual solutions.

"I never set out to be the 'porn pastor,'" said Gross at the debate. "But after our very first day back in 2001, we realized that we really had a heart for this. So our message is simply this: Jesus loves you."

Jeremy has been in more than 2,000 pornographic films and has been named the number one porn star of all time by Adult Video News. Although he agrees that an addiction to pornography can be harmful, he argues that the majority of people do not suffer from this addiction.

"Can some people be addicted to porn? Yes. Do I like it? No," said Jeremy. "But you cannot blame the industry for that. That is a personal choice."

The two have traveled the country debating the issue of pornography for four years and in many venues, mostly on college campuses and at pornography conventions. Saturday night was the first time the debate took place in a church.

“I am not going to convince anyone who is into religion that porn is OK,” said Jeremy. “Because they just aren’t into it.”

Gross said the subject was a necessary one for the church to consider.

“I think we as a church need to talk about this stuff,” said Gross. “It’s a difficult subject to navigate. We live in a world of sexual disorder, but marriage contains everything we need. Porn is unnecessary.”

PLNU students who attended the debate had mixed feelings about the effects of the discussion.

“I didn’t like how most of the debate was about legitimate pornography,” said junior Erik Tammaru. “Most of the stuff out there isn’t, and it’s right there free on the Internet. Why didn’t it focus on what we can do to solve that?”

Miles McPherson, head pastor of the Rock Church, mediated the event and allowed a question and answer segment after the debate for the audience.

“I wish people had used that time to demonstrate love,” said sophomore Emily Hoverson. “No one asked any questions out of love, only to attack Ron Jeremy. How does that encourage people who are involved in this industry to become members of the body of Christ?”

Gross tried to make his message of love for Jeremy and the church apparent.

“Why do I do this? Because it’s a problem,” said Gross. “Porn is not real. It’s a fantasy, and it’s becoming our sex ed. I was a youth pastor dealing with 13 and 14-year-olds coming to me saying, ‘Look what I found on the Internet.’ They were crying out for help, and no one was doing anything.”

McPherson emphasized the importance of the discussion.

“The reason we are doing this is to bring the info out into the light of the church,” said McPherson. “These issues need to be discussed.”

Gross spoke Sunday as well at the Rock. He reaffirmed his message for the church with his sermon, “Jesus Loves Ron Jeremy.”

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