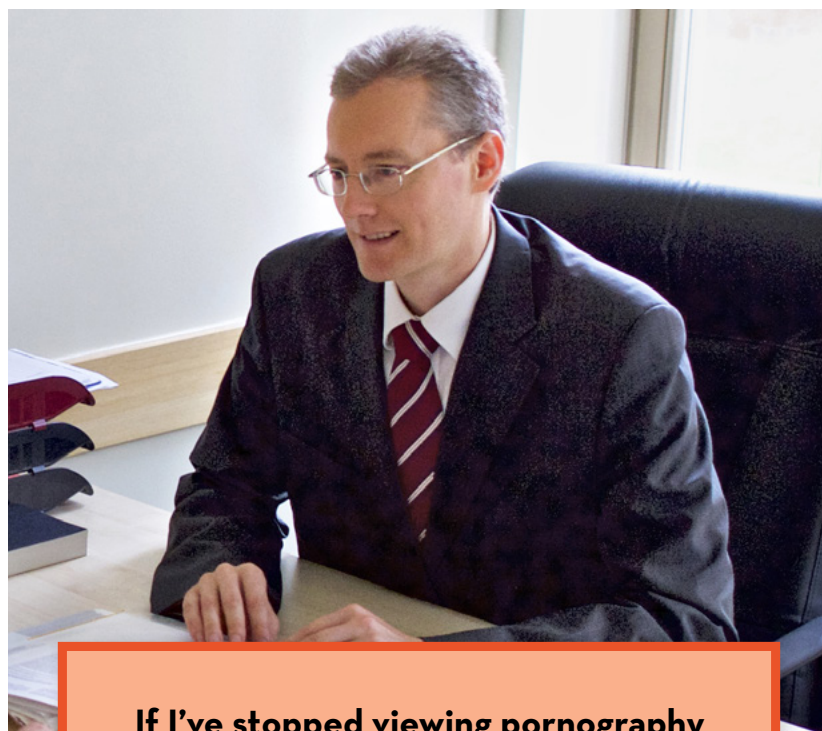


TO THE POINT

How do I balance not judging others and not condoning sin?

We're commanded to forgive others and leave final judgment to God (see D&C 64:9–11), but this doesn't mean condoning sin. If we're around others who are engaging in sinful behavior, we should be a light to them and stand up for what's right. At a minimum, this means setting a good example by not engaging in sin ourselves and not placing ourselves in questionable situations or company. But should we point out people's bad behavior to let them know God's laws and where we stand on them? And if so, when and how should we do it?

The answer probably depends on the situation, the kind of relationship we have with the people involved, and their knowledge of God's laws. For instance, talking one-on-one to family members and close friends is better than telling a roomful of mere acquaintances to repent. Seek the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. He can guide your words and actions so that you can show the right balance of love, tolerance, and steadfast commitment to the Lord's standards. ■



If I've stopped viewing pornography on my own, do I still have to talk to the bishop?

If you've been viewing pornography, you're encouraged to “seek the help you need. Your parents and bishop can help you take the steps necessary to repent and rid yourself of this destructive habit” (*For the Strength of Youth* [2011], 12).

If you've stopped viewing pornography on your own, the question isn't really whether or not you're still “required” to talk to your bishop about it. The real question is “Why not talk to my bishop?” There really is no downside to it. He will be understanding and encouraging, and he will be pleased with the efforts you've made to forsake your past sins. The bishop can help you resolve any lingering doubts you may have regarding your worthiness and the thoroughness of your repentance. And he can help you strengthen your faith and trust in Jesus Christ and His atoning sacrifice. For similar reasons, you should also consider talking to your parents. ■