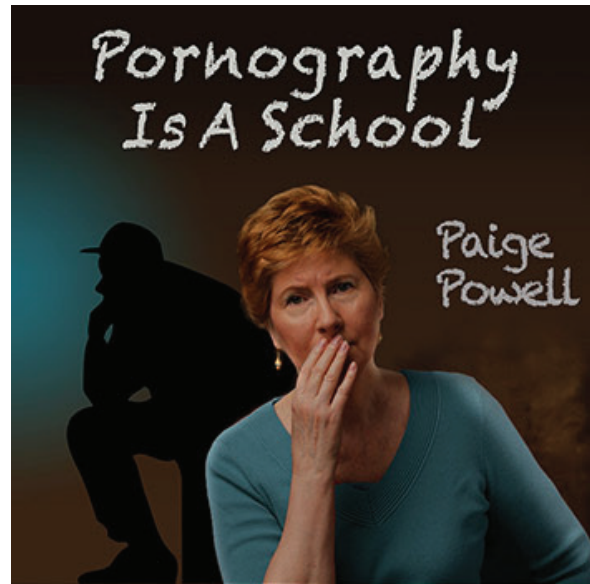


Paige Powell Music Blog for March 19, 2021:

The Story Behind the Song, "Pornography Is A School"

I'm a big fan of **Andy Stanley**, who pastors a church in Atlanta and whose sermons are on YouTube. I almost always learn something from his sermons or find a concept that is inspiring. When I heard "*Gentleman's Club*," about respect for women, about 30 minutes into the sermon, I was astonished that he addressed the topic of pornography. Few people will bring it up at all as an issue. So when I brought my song, "*Pornography Is A School*" to my fellow songwriters, they said "Wow!" as soon as they read the title. Then, when I played the song for them, they were finding many reasons to defend a man's right to choose, along with other objections to the song. "*It sounds like you are preaching!*" they said. I replied, "*Well, this song IS based on a sermon!*". Finally, **Kathy Stanley** from my **NSAI-DC chapter*** said that the lyrics would be more agreeable if framed as a woman who has been personally hurt by pornography. She explained that the song would make people feel sympathy for the woman. So, I re-wrote it, realizing she was right. When I performed it at the **New Deal Café Open Mic in Greenbelt**, my friend Amy told me that after I played my song, a man in the back stood up when he applauded!



Now, this hard-hitting blues song is written from the perspective of a woman who can't compete with her man's addiction to pornography. Lyrics include "*I wanna scream when he's online!*" It was inspired by the sermon "*Gentleman's Club*," which starts with the New Testament's **revolutionary teaching that women are to be respected and honored**, not treated as a commodity to be used. Thirty minutes into the sermon, Andy Stanley mentions the "pastime" of viewing nude women and declares that **pornography is a school that teaches** 1) a real body isn't enough, 2) one body isn't enough, and 3) your wife's body isn't good enough. He explains that we're now discovering that it's like a drug that deadens (and destroys) a man's brain's desire for a real woman. My song's closing line is "*addiction is needle-free.*" Sadly, pornography is an addiction for many men. If you'd like to hear the sermon on YouTube, here's the link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D_qzzDbeDd4. To see the video of my live performance of the song, "*Pornography Is A School*," here is that link: <https://youtu.be/ZT0IcRfCAHY>

I hope I have thrown a ripple into a pond that spreads into many conversations about pornography. One of the lines from my song is "*it whispers 'this ain't no crime'*". Let me know if this song at least gave you some food for thought, dear reader. Meanwhile, I have confidence that I can write a song about any topic. I hope my future contains a songwriting assignment!

Your local singer-songwriter, Paige Powell

**Nashville Songwriters Association International, DC Chapter*