**The Unseen Pandemic: Understanding Pornography in Today’s World**

Most of us were blindsided by the recent COVID-19 pandemic, learning how quickly a virus could spread. In a similar way, pornography has quietly become a **widespread, “unseen pandemic”** affecting millions of individuals and families worldwide.

Research shows that the average age of first exposure to pornography is now around 11 years old, and access is virtually limitless thanks to the internet. Many in our congregations may never realize the scope of the problem until they or someone they love is affected. Pornography addiction can lead to secrecy, shame, and broken relationships, yet it often goes unnoticed.

Awareness is critical. If this is a struggle in your life or household, confidential, anonymous help is available through **Redemption Road Mentoring, a faith-based program supported by NALC leadership**. Recovery is possible, and reaching out is a courageous first step.