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### Fifty Shades of Grey

The movie, Fifty Shades of Grey is scheduled to launch in movie theaters across America on February 13, 2015. The movie is based on the enormously popular book trilogy which has sold over 100 million copies across the world, 10 million in the United States alone and has been translated into 52 languages.

It is considered a literary phenomenon and the books were all at or near the top of the New York Times best selling works in 2011 and 2012. These books were written by E. L. James, a female British author.

The focus of the books is the relationship between Christian Grey, a wealthy and successful Seattle based entrepreneur and Anastasia Steele, a recent college graduate. The story is presented as a romance novel but it is far beyond that in its content. **The theme is that bondage, dominance and sadomasochism are normal and pleasurable.** In the story the young Miss Steele is urged to sign a contract becoming a sex slave and agreeing to an abusive and degrading relationship.

The contrast between the message of Fifty Shades of Grey and **God's design for self-giving and self-sacrificing love, marriage and sexual intimacy could not be greater.** The books and the movie undermine everything that we believe as members of the faith community.

**Action:** Because of their popularity the message of Fifty Shades of Grey has become acceptable and popular in the main stream culture. As members of the faith community we need to inform our constituencies about the destructive message of this movie and to highlight the beauty of God's design for loving relationships between a husband and wife in the covenant of marriage. We urge you to do the following:

1. Inform your leadership
2. Inform your pastors, priests, rabbis and imams
3. Encourage your leaders to spread the word at the grassroots level
4. Use emails, newsletters, newspapers, and any other communication vehicles available to you. Note: It is critically important not simply to condemn the message of Fifty Shades of Grey. **It is equally important to celebrate our message about love and the blessing of sexual intimacy within the bonds of marriage. We have the better story - lets proclaim it.**
5. In stark contrast to Fifty Shades of Grey is **Old Fashioned**, a movie which will be in theaters on Valentines Day. The movie trailer may be viewed at their website:  
<http://www.oldfashionedmovie.com>