

Worldliness: Dancing

Introduction

1. **Many questions have been asked over the years by members of the church concerning dancing.**
 - A. **Is it wrong to dance?**
 - B. **Can I go to the prom this year?**
 - C. **If dancing is wrong, why is there not a passage that specifically forbids it?**
 - D. **Why is it that some Christians see nothing wrong with dancing and even encourage it?**

2. **The world thinks that dancing is an innocent thing. However, many Christians truly believe that it is wrong to dance, but they can't prove it.**
 - A. **As a result, this puts them in a very awkward position when it comes to 1 Peter 3:15:**

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and **always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason** for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

3. **We must remember that the Christian lives by a different standard from that of the world.**
 - A. **Because a certain practice is commonly accepted by people of the world does not make it acceptable to God.**

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

4. **It will be my aim this morning is to help all of us understand that the principles and teaching of God's Word clearly shows that one professing to be a disciple of Christ and longing for heaven cannot engage in the modern dance and still be pleasing to God.**

Worldliness

1. **The introductory lesson in this series was on the topic of worldliness in general. I want to encourage you to keep that introduction handout on worldliness with you so that you can review it along with the particular subjects that we will be discussing in this series. If you will recall, in that lesson we defined what worldliness was:**
 - A. **“of or limited to this world; temporal or secular; devoted to or concerned with the affairs, pleasures, etc. of this world” (Webster)**
1 John 2:15-17
2. **Worldliness is:**
 - A. **A participation in sin - the sphere of iniquity**
 - B. **Given to a life of following one’s passions**
 - C. **Living like the world; not being or trying to be separate**
 - D. **Living a life devoted to the temporal - not spiritual**

What is Dancing?

1. **“Dancing is an expression in rhythmic movement of an intensified sense of life, arising from an inner perception that stimulates both mind and body” (Grolier).**
2. **“To move rhythmically to music, using prescribed or improvised steps and gestures” (American Heritage Dictionary).**
3. **What is involved in dancing?**
 - A. **Close bodily contact**
 - B. **Moving in rhythm to the music**
 - C. **Romantic atmosphere: lights, music, etc.**
4. **There are various types of dancing. Here are some:**
 - A. **Waltz, disco, ballroom, dirty dancing, prom, party dances**

What Is Appealing about Dancing?

1. **The testimony of the world says that the appeal to dancing is SEXUAL!**
 - A. **J. Edgar Hoover: "Most juvenile crime has its inception in the dance hall, either public or private."**
 - B. **Professor W. C. Wilkerson of Chicago University: "It is a system of means, contrived with more than human ingenuity, to excite the instinct of sex action."**
 - C. **T. A. Vogner, former supervisor of the Dancing Academy in CA: "No woman can waltz well and waltz virtuously."**
 - D. **J. P. Gibson, MD: "Among those who dance it is noteworthy that very few girls spend much time dancing with other girls. Neither do men dance very much with their own wives, nor brothers with their own sisters ... the secret of the popularity of dancing (or is it a secret) is the exciting, sexual stimulation resulting from the close embrace of male and female whether it be with music in dancing or without music in petting and necking."**
 - E. **Homer Hailey: "It is true that only a minority of church members dance, and possibly a small minority; but to whatever degree dancing is tolerated among members of the body, to just that degree the church tends toward the world, and allows the spirit of the world to infiltrate it."**
2. **It seems that if a young man takes your daughter to the prom, the parents are proud! However, if they engage in the same action in the living room then **the parents send him home!****

Biblical Principles That Condemn Dancing

1. **Lasciviousness** **Galatians 5:19-21**

- A. **Lasciviousness is defined as: “Lewd; wanton; lustful; tending to produce lewd emotions.” (Webster)**
- B. **Lewd is defined as: “Given to indulgence of lust; suiting or proceeding from unlawful sexual desire.” (Webster)**
 - 1) **Anything, therefore, that tends to produce lewd emotions, create evil thoughts, or excite unlawful sexual desire is lasciviousness.**

Brethren and friends – this, dancing certainly does

- a. **If any physical contact between male and female causes one to have desires that are not proper, one must not engage in that practice.**

Matthew 5:28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

- b. **Many of the body movements in today’s dances are highly suggestive, and often provoke lustful admiration from others, whether they are dancing or watching** (*Daughter of Herodias - Matthew 14:3-11*)

2. **Revelries or Carousals**

Also mentioned in Galatians 5:19-21

- A. **Revel is defined as “to rebel, carouse, a wild party or celebration.” (Webster)**
- B. **New Testament writers always associated dancing with sexual immorality and drunkenness.**

1 Peter 4:3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles — when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

Romans 13:13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.

- 1) **We are only fooling ourselves by imagining that alcohol and drugs are not a very dangerous part of most dances.**

3. **Flee Lust**

- A. **To flee is to: “run away, shun or escape” (Strong’s)**
1 Thessalonians 4:3-6

2 Timothy 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Colossians 3:5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

4. **Flee Fornication**

1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

Other Considerations Christians Should Think About:

1. **Dancing is questionable**

A. Being present at a dance whether one dances or not puts you in the wrong environment. It does not enhance your spirituality.

1) The modern dance leads one closer to fornication, not further from it.

Romans 14:23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.

Psalms 1:1-2 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

2. **Dancing harms my influence**

**A. Christians are to shine as lights in the world
Matthew 5:14-16**

B. The Christian's purity of life will be tainted

1 John 3:3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

3. **Dancing makes obedience to Christ impossible**

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

1 Corinthians 10:31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 6:17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

4. Vital questions you should answer before going to a dance:**A. What is my real reason for going?**

- 1) **Think about your answer honestly. Apply the Bible principles.**

B. What kind of people will be there?

- 1) **Will they be the kind of people with whom a Christian would and should want to associate**

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

C. What kind of activities will be taking place there?

- 1) **Will they be wholesome, spiritually uplifting, or will they be the kind that the Christian should avoid?**

D. Will I appear to be approving evil practices by my attendance?

Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

E. Would I want to be seen by other Christians at such a function?**F. Would I want to take other Christians with me to such a function?****G. If Christ should return, would He be pleased with me for being at such a function?**

Conclusion

1. **When deciding whether to attend a dance or not, I urge you to consider what God would want you to do.**
 - A. **I hope you decide never to dance.**

2. **I encourage you to seek wholesome, godly activities for yourself and friends.**
 - A. **If you do, you will grow stronger, not weaker; you will gain real friends, not lose them; you will reap the fruit of the Spirit, not the works of the flesh.**
 - 1) **You will allow God to rule your life in every way.**

3. **Finally, I want to share with you this article written by a faithful gospel preacher by the name of W. R. Jones:**

“Dancing is condemned with the word “lasciviousness.” Lasciviousness is that which tends to stir up the lewd and lustful desires. Dancing destroys spirituality. The condoning of dancing by the church, testifies to the weakness of that church. Will it hurt to just learn how to dance? Is there any harm in girls dancing with girls? Only in the sense that you are ‘pitching your tent toward sodom.’ Why sow seed that will produce a sinful harvest? The old saying that, ‘a praying knee and a dancing foot don’t grow on the same leg is still a very true statement, even today. When your life is ruined, it is much like ‘water spilt,’ it can be started over, but not recalled.”

Invitation

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