

# Dangers of Dancing

## Introduction

- A.** Is it wrong for a Christian to participate in dancing? How can we say it is wrong when no passage specifically forbids it? Why do some Christians see nothing wrong with it? Is it wrong to go to the school dances or the prom?
- B.** The Bible does not specifically condemn dancing, but is shown to be sinful based upon the principles of the Word of God.

## I. Dancing Is Worldliness

- A.** The Christian seeks to live a life of moral purity. This purity of life is motivated by a desire to be like Christ. I John 3:1-3
- B.** This desire results in the Christian being different from the world. We are “in the world” but not “of this world”. John 17:14-16
1. Our affections are “on things above” (Col. 3:2)
  2. Our thinking is different from the world (Rom. 12:1-2).
  3. We must recognize the dangers of the things of the world (I John 2:15-17).
  4. We keep ourselves pure and “unspotted from the world” (James 1:27).
  5. The Christian shuns “the appearance of evil” (1 Thess. 5: 22).
- C.** Homer Hailey once said: “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.”
- D.** Dancing Defined
1. Dance 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. Dancing involves certain movements in rhythm to the music; the close body contact between the sexes, and the often romantic, even sensual atmosphere.
  4. This is seen in the various types of dances: the waltz, disco, ballroom “dirty dancing”, dances of the prom and the party type dances.

## II. Dancing is Lasciviousness

- A.** The very appeal of dancing is based upon sexual appeal.
1. Dr. B. S. Talmey: "The modern dance copies the oriental dances and represents, not wooing and love, but gross sexuality . . . the modern dance represents an appeal to the lower instincts."
  2. Dr. Lita Hollingsworth, Professor of Education at Columbia, in an article defending the dance, admitted: "Dancing is an exciting and pleasurable recreation as it affords a partial satisfaction to the sex impulse."
- B.** Galatians 5:19-21 speaks of “the works of the flesh”. Included in this list is the sin of “LASCIVIOUSNESS” (Lewdness – NKJV).
1. The Greek word used means “Absence of restraint, in-decency, wantonness, lust, excess wanton desires indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females” (Thayer, pp. 79, 80).

2. Webster defines lasciviousness as " . . . lewd, wanton, lustful, . . . tending to produce lewd emotions, shamelessness, exciting sexual desires, one that has a characteristic of lust." "
  3. The synonym of lasciviousness, "lewd," Webster defines to mean" . . . given to indulgence of lust . . . suiting or proceeding from unlawful sexual desire."
  4. Anyone who has participated in the modern dance who will be completely honest will have to admit that such certainly produces "lewd emotion."
    - a) A. G. Hobb's tract IS IT RIGHT TO DANCE? states that an audience of 1500 men were asked the question, "How many can dance and not have evil thoughts," and not one hand was raised!
    - b) These definitions describe the modern dance which involves: wild gyrations, explicit sexual movements, focusing on the body, sex appeal, arousing desires, sexual stimulation.
  5. Notice other scriptures where the sin of lasciviousness is described either specifically or in principle: Matt. 5:27-28; Rom. 13:13-14; Eph. 4:19; 2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Pet. 4:1-3.
- C.** The Christian lives in all purity of heart and life and seeks to "flee sexual immorality" (1 Cor. 6:18-20; 2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Thess. 4:3-6).
- D.** But does dancing really lead to such sexual sins and immorality?

### **III. Testimony of The World**

#### **A. Testimony of Medical Doctors:**

1. Dr. Thomas C. Whitfield has spoken regarding dancing thusly: "The modern dance is condemned precisely at this point. It is not wrong solely because it might lead one to the physical act of fornication, but it is sinful to the degree that it arouses unrestrained desires that cannot be fulfilled under present relations and conditions. When such desires are aroused, the dancing is within itself sinful use because it is then a lascivious act."
2. Dr. A. C. Dixon: "The modern dance is the fine art of covering with music, indelicate, immodest and oftentimes indecent attitudes and postures between men and women."
3. "I attack the modern dance as a reversion toward savagery. As a medical man, I flatly charge that modern dancing is fundamentally sinful and evil. I charge that dancing charm is based entirely on sex appeal. I charge that dancing is the most advanced and most incidious maneuvering preliminary to sex betrayal. It is nothing more than damnable, diabolical, animal, physical dissipation. I tell you the basic spell of the dance is the spell of illicit physical contact. Under what other shield can a man, or woman, a youth or maiden so promiscuously fondle so many of the opposite sex in a single night, or a lifetime - Dr. E. S. Sonners, M.D.-nerve specialist of Chicago, in THE CARNIVAL OF DEATH.
4. A Lubbock, Texas Physician: "As far as I am concerned, the children can stay home and twiddle their thumbs rather than go to dances, and others would feel the same way, too, if they could be in my office and see mothers come in with tears streaming down their faces, with their little girls begging for help and advice."

## B. Testimony of Dance Experts

1. T. A. Faulkner, former supervisor of the Dancing Assembly of Los Angeles, also former President of the Dancing Master's Association of the Pacific Coast said: "*The strongest indictment of the dance is the attendant immorality. The inducement to immorality lies in the co-sexual dancing.*"
2. Professor Harry Stribes, renowned champion dancer and originator of many noted society dances, advised: "I will say that I do not believe a woman can waltz virtuously and waltz well, for she must yield her person completely to her partner."
3. Professor William H. Holmes, former dancing master: "I have found the ballroom an avenue of destruction to multitudes. This is a truth burned into the hearts of thousands of downcast fathers and brokenhearted mothers."
4. Professor Louis J. Guyon, owner and operator of "Paradise Ballrooms," one of Chicago's largest dance halls, said: "We know that sex is the strongest impulse planted in the human race. You can just picture the effect on a boy or girl of 18 or 20, when this hunger is keenest, when knowledge and experience are lacking in the formation of judgment, of one of these dances which calls for close bodily contact and frequently brings the cheeks together and entwine the limbs. Yet, we find thousands of boys and girls dancing in this very way who do not realize they are doing anything out of the way, and whose fool parents look on complacently. This form of dancing is a menace to the future of our nation. "When you are told that youth of both sexes can . . . survive this experience without mental, moral and physical pollution, you know the teller lies . . . If you can believe youth is the same after this experience as before then God help your child or your charge, for you are not mentally fit for your responsibility . . . If you do not believe I have correctly described the modern dances and their effect, you either have not seen them performed or you are willfully blind to their true character."

## C. Testimony of Others

1. "Seven-tenths of the girls received here have fallen through dancing and its influences." A Matron of a home for fallen women in Los Angeles, California.
2. "Most juvenile crime had its inception in the dance hall, either public or private." - J. Edgar Hoover.
3. Several men who dance have told me that if they should find another man holding their wives *without musical accompaniment* as they hold them with music during the dance, they would kill the man!
4. In contradiction to this great array of testimony comes the feeble voice of the worldly church member: "I cannot see anything wrong with it."

## IV. Other "Fruits" of Dancing

- A. Jesus taught that one could judge a tree by its fruits (Matt. 7:16,17), and if the tree's fruits are evil, undoubtedly the tree itself is evil (Matt. 12:33).
  1. Since dancing is revelry and lascivious its fruits inevitably are evil.
  2. Evil companions, obscene language, smoking, drinking, petting, adultery and divorce are concomitants of the dance.

3. Principal Charles Salter of Aliso Niguel High School in California banned dances at the school after becoming fed up with students' sexually suggestive moves. Salter explains his responsibility as principal is to teach students "appropriateness."
- B. Dancing destroys spirituality.**
1. It is incontrovertible that dancing dulls the spiritual interests.
  2. Albert Barnes said, "No child dances into heaven, but many a one dances into hell." Someone else has observed that "A dancing foot and a praying knee do not grow on the same leg."
- C. Dancing destroys the Christian's influence.**
1. Christians are to be the "light of the world" and the "salt of the earth" (Matt. 5:13-16). Our conduct therefore can have a good influence or an evil one.
  2. Dancing becomes a "stumbling block" to the weak and erring. (Luke 17:1-2)

## **V. Arguments "For" the Dance**

- A. "I only go to chaperoned dances."**
1. The very need for chaperones is an indictment against the dance. Chaperoned dances are where people learn to dance. Then they go to unchaperoned dances.
  2. Quote from those who chaperoned a dance, "I got tired of moving hands back where they should be," "I know for a fact I'm needed more after the kids leave the dance than in here. In the gym they just stimulate each other, later they are driven to fulfill those lusts."
- B. "Dancing is good exercise."**
1. Is that really why you dance? If that's the case, then why not have boys dancing with other boys and get the same exercise?
  2. Plan a "boys with boys" dance for "exercise," and see what response you get. If this dance is not "sexually" natured, then there should be no problem if it does not have a sexual overtone, should there?
  3. You will see the "basic spell" of the dance to be the sex impulse and its "unchaste handling of males and females."
  4. During the slow periods of dance, with two people rubbing their bodies together, is this exercise? If it was exercise that was needed during the Homecoming or Prom, wouldn't it be just the same if you had all of the students get together for an hour or two of a gym class?
- C. "I just enjoy the rhythm of the music; I've got rhythm in my bones."**
1. There is no objection to persons enjoying good music. But if boys and girls did the same movements, without music, they would be in big trouble!
  2. Would you like your son or daughter to do these dance movements in a parked car in the dark? Or would this be OK too as long as it was "chaperoned"?
- D. "Dancing develops such poise."**
1. Again I ask, "Is that really why you do it?" The husband can dance with his own wife and develop for her the same amount of poise.
- E. "It is necessary to social popularity."**
1. This is probably the most plausible defense made. Few are so brazen as to admit they like to dance because it gives them a chance to fondle females, and seduce them. But dancing is not necessary to social popularity.

2. Somehow I still think the people worth impressing look more favorably upon the pure and godly young man or woman than the boy or girl who has "made the rounds." But suppose dancing were necessary to social popularity, does that in itself make it right? In some circles, profanity, drinking, and sexual promiscuity are also necessary for social popularity. Is any ready to state that this makes these sinful practices lawful for the Christian?

### **Let's Go To A Dance**

(article written by Jeff Kepler)

“Let's take a factual look at this dance as is offered by our schools. Dads, Moms, I want you to think about your beautiful daughter God has blessed you with. As she goes to the dance, your daughter's body will be the main focus as she is on the dance floor. The boys will be looking at your daughter's body and watching how she moves it and how she gyrates it to music. The boy dancing with her or across the room is being stimulated by how your daughter is moving her body and, most likely adding to that, what she is wearing. As she moves her body around and as the boys look at her body, she is expressing the desire for others to look at her and enjoy what they see as she moves around. Also during this dance, your daughter is focusing on the boy's body and how he is moving and gyrating it in front of her. Dads, Moms, I want you to think about your wonderful son God has blessed you with. Yes, he is one of the "boys" mentioned above if he attends this dance. Your son is watching a girl's body as she moves it and gyrates it to music. As your son is focusing on her body, your son is immediately turned on sexually. His sexual desire has been ignited and the movements of a girl's body feeds this lustful reaction. He then in turn moves his body around for her to see. You see, at a dance, the focus is on the other person's body, how it looks and how it moves. The movements are sexual, the tone is sexual, and the atmosphere is of sexual stimulation. Bodies close, touching, rubbing together — stimulating sexual thoughts and desires.

"Dancing's charm is based on sex appeal"; "Dancing is used as a doorway to sex. You must first arouse the desires then you fulfill them ..."; "Dancing is the easiest and surest way to turn on a boy." All of those that I have seen that describe this dance, that teach this dance, that promote this dance in their establishments, do so using a common word. That word is sex.

Our children are being pressured in being involved with an activity that is sexually driven. Our school officials can deny it, and say that it is good clean fun, but in reality, and according to the facts, it is dirty not clean. They may not mean for this to be the purpose, but it is. Facts are facts.”