

Dancing - cont.

to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:29; 2 Sam. 6:14-16).

When you find dancing in the Bible and compare it with the modern dance today, you will notice something very interesting. In the Bible, you will find a person dancing solo, or men with men and women with women. But social dancing by men and women together in our modern fashion was unknown in the Bible (see the *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, pp. 1169-1170).

The Modern Dance

Yes, you can find dancing in the Bible. But the modern dance of men and women together is not like the dancing you find in the Bible. The modern dance today has thoughts and activities associated with it that are wrong. Dancing today can include impure thoughts, desires, and looks. It can contain intimate physical contact or improper body movements that excite the lust of the eye and the flesh. It is often done wearing immodest clothing, especially for the females (1 Timothy 2:9-10). And sometimes it is accompanied by intoxicants (alcohol and drugs).

[Part 2 next week]

- Chris Reeves -

- Word of the Week -

“Daily bread” (Gr. *epiousios*) was used by Jesus in Matthew 6:11 and Luke 11:3. It is literally, “bread for the coming day”. Jesus wanted his disciples to trust and rely upon the Lord for each day’s bread. It is very important that each one of us understand that we need the Lord “daily” in our lives. Let us live this week relying upon the Lord “daily” for our bread and all other needs.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Dancing: What Does the Bible Say? - Part I

Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing; Thou hast loosed my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness
- Psalm 30:11 -

Dancing is one of the more popular social activities in the world today, from the basic dancing of two unprofessionals, to the highly artistic “*Dancing With the Stars*”. So, the question that Christians often ask is this: Is it right for a Christian to dance?

Whether or not a Christian can participate in the modern dance is, of course, determined by God’s word, not by culture, or opinion. God’s word should direct every aspect of our life, including entertainment and recreation.

It must be kept in mind at the beginning of our study that dancing is not simply innocent body movements. It can be (especially in small children), but often it includes much more when teens or adults are doing it. Often lustful thoughts and feelings accompany the act among those who are older and so it has been called “the language of the body”. Dancing can stimulate a person to think or act a certain way, both good or bad.

Dancing comes in different forms,

so not all dancing is wrong. For example, skipping, leaping, lively movement, and bobbing up and down can all be considered “dancing” but it would not necessarily be wrong to do it.

Today, pressure on our young people to dance comes from various sources. School functions (Homecoming Dance, Valentines Day dance, Prom, etc.), school dance teams, dance lessons, etc., are very popular today and can influence youth to want to dance.

Types of Dancing in the Bible

In the Bible, people engaged in different types of dancing and for different reasons. Not all dancing in the Bible is wrong. Indeed, there is “a time to dance” given by God (Ecclesiastes 3:4). Here are a few examples:

- Dancing was done as a form of amusement. Job speaks of the wicked who send their children out to dance and sing (Job 21:11-12; see also Psalm 30:11; Isaiah 13:21; Lamentations 5:15; Matthew 11:16-17; Luke 7:32).
- Dancing was done as a part of rejoicing or celebrating. Jephthah’s daughter came out of the house to meet her father and she was dancing (Judges

11:34; see also Judges 21:21,23; 1 Samuel 18:6-7; 21:11; 29:5; Psalm 87:7; Song of Solomon 6:13; Jeremiah 31:4,13; Luke 15:25).

- Dancing was done as a part of praising the Lord. After crossing the Red Sea, Miriam and the women praised the Lord with timbrels, dances, and song (Exodus 15:20-21; see also 2 Sam. 6:16-23; 1 Chronicles 15:29; Psalm 149:3; 150:4).
- Dancing was done as a part of sensual reveling. The Israelites were dancing around the golden calf at Mt. Sinai as a part of their idolatrous activities (Exodus 32:6, 19, 25; note “naked” in the KJV of Exodus 32:25; see also 1 Samuel 30:16). This kind of dancing was clearly wrong!
- Dancing was done, whether intentional or not, to entice another person. The daughter of Herodias did this as she danced before Herod (Matthew 14:6-7; Mark 6:22-23). This kind of dancing was clearly wrong!
- Dancing was done as a part of playing and celebration. David did this when the ark was being returned