

Dancing - cont.

That's possible, but we should not worry about what the world thinks about us (1 Peter 4:4-5; 1 John 2:15-17).

Some say, "I can dance without having evil thoughts." Answer: Even if that's possible, what about you causing other people to stumble by looking at you (Matthew 18:7)?

Some say, "It's my body." Answer: As a Christian, your body belongs to the Lord (1 Corinthians 6:19).

Some say, "The dance will be supervised." Answer: Yes, adults are watching, but they cannot see the lustful thoughts inside of you if they are there (1 Corinthians 2:11).

Some say, "I enjoy the rhythm of the music." Answer: The rhythm is not the problem, it's what it leads to that is the problem (1 Corinthians 6:13).

Some say, "Churches have dances." Answer: Yes, they do, and they also do many other things that are not authorized by Jesus (Luke 6:46).

Some say, "The Bible doesn't say 'Thou shalt not dance'." Answer: True, but the Bible does tell us how to act

Dancing - cont.

properly and not to lust (Colossians 3:17).

Dancing: Is It Right to Do?

Friends, the modern dance is popular, but it often leads to the lust of the eye and the lust of the flesh. If you are dancing and lusting (only you and God know), then it's not the right thing to do. - *Chris Reeves*

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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 2

“And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot...” - Exodus 32:19

In last week's bulletin article, I examined various types of dancing in the Bible and some problems associated with the modern dance. In this article, I want to look at some negative consequences of dancing and I want to also answer some common arguments made in favor of dancing.

Remember, the dancing that is found in the Bible (see last week's article) is different than the modern dance. Today's dancing (like the dancing at Mt. Sinai and the dancing of Herodias' daughter) can have a “lust component” to it that is not found in the other forms dancing in the Bible. As a result of this “lust factor”, the modern dance can have several negative consequence. Dancing can...

- Destroy a good example and influence. When you are out on the dance floor moving in such a way that you are inciting lust in others and lusting your self, you are not setting a very good example as a Christian (Matthew 5:13-16; Philipians 2:15; 1 Timothy 4:12).

- Destroy respect. When you are dancing in such a way that you bring attention to your body, you can lower your self-respect. Your dance partner can see you just as an object of desire and not as a person of character (1 Timothy 5:1-2).
- Destroy spirituality. When you are dancing, there is often a focus on the physical and not on the spiritual. You are not thinking about how you can draw closer to God (Job 21:11-15).
- Promote lustful thoughts. When you are dancing, you are moving in a way that draws attention to your body. You can begin to think impure things that can be done with the body (Matthew 5:28; 6:13; 15:19; Philipians 4:8; 2 Timothy 2:22; 1 Peter 2:11).
- Promote lasciviousness. When you dance, you are often looking and touching and this causes arousal. When you are done on the dance floor, you want to continue the “good feelings” and “good times” off the dance floor (Mark 7:22; Galatians 5:19-20). What is lasciviousness? Lasciviousness (Greek, *aselgeia*) includes “indecent bodily movements, and unchaste handling of males and females” (Thayer's Lexicon, page 79-80). Sounds a lot like dancing!

Should We Dance?

(Answering the Arguments)

Some say, “It's good exercise.” Answer: It may be, but we are to exercise ourselves to godliness also and not be lustful (1 Timothy 4:7-8).

Some say, “It's fun.” Answer: It may be, but it can also be a pleasurable fun that is sinful (Hebrews 11:25).

Some say, “It's the popular thing to do.” Answer: It may be, but many popular people are also travelling the road to hell (Matthew 7:13-14).

Some say, “It helps me develop skill, coordination and poise.” Answer: It may do that, but God looks at your inside character, not your outward appearance (1 Samuel 16:7; Proverbs 31:30; 1 Peter 3:3-4).

Some say, “It's a good place to meet people and make friends.” Answer: It may do that, but we are not to be like the world and have worldly friends (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:33; 2 Corinthians 6:17 – 7:1; Colossians 3:1-2; James 1:27).

Some say, “They will think I'm strange if I don't dance.” Answer: