

## Why Can't Christians Dance?

There are so many teenagers, and older folk, who enjoy dancing. It is seen as fun, exciting and many believe it to be merely an expression of enjoying life. But, are they correct? While most do not see any harm involved in dancing, when we consider the question at hand, many other questions come to mind. For example, does God disapprove of dancing even though it is mentioned in the Bible? How can one say that dancing is wrong when no passage specifically forbids it? Why do some Christians see nothing wrong with dancing and their children are allowed to attend the prom or dancing schools and others are not able to go? It must first be noted that dancing is not only a problem for young people, but for adults as well. Yet with all things, we must turn to the authority for our lives when dealing with this subject. We must turn to God's Word for the answers so that we are not seeking to gratify ourselves, but to have the right attitude in our service to Christ (Matthew 5:41).

Now, when we consider dancing, there are many types. There is the companionship between a husband and wife and what they share privately in their own homes. There is the tapping of feet and bobbing of the head which is what many do when they are happy with something or listening to good music. Then, there is the modern dance.

What is the modern dance? It is a social function, organized in such a way that brings the opposite sex together. It is this dance that places a single man and a single woman together in a very close, intimate way. It is this type of dance that encourages each other to move in ways that require bodily contact entangled with romantic atmospheres which are suggestive. It is also these types of dances that women are exposing themselves in a sexually attractive way. And, we know this is what dancing does because the world shows us by movies, television, pictures and

suggestions that dancing has the appeal for sexuality. It excites the instincts of sex action and the close embracing of male and female. Dancing is also often accompanied with alcohol. Now, whether alcohol was originally intended is besides the point. It seems to accompany many dances these days. The internet is filled with videos and pictures that shows teens dancing and getting drunk. And so, when people become intoxicated with alcohol and then there is lewdness, that is, the trait of behaving in an obscene manner, fornication is not too far away.

Now, I do not believe that Christian teenagers want to sin any more than anyone else does. But, they do want to enjoy their youth as much as possible. It is for this reason that sin needs to be defined and lines drawn so they can know what is right and what is wrong. Oftentimes, we are under the false assumption that we know what is best for ourselves. Yet, the Bible clearly states, ". . . I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). Make no mistake, God wants the best for His children (James 1:17) and promises abundant life to those who forsake the world and follow Him (John 10:10). He expects us to be happy (Philippians 4:4) and does not restrict us from any good wholesome entertainment. God only withholds things and warns of things that would hurt us or separate ourselves from Him. Unfortunately, many moms and dads, who love their children very much, are not helping this situation. Proud Christian parents are seen dressing their children in inappropriate clothing and cheer their children on as their youngsters expose intimate parts of their bodies for all to see. You would think a father would be provoked to find a boy groping his daughter in the living room. But, put the two on a dance floor and it's Kodak time. Do we want our daughters and sons to be known for how sexy their body moves? The styles today as in past generations have been designed to draw

attention to parts of the body that no one, except their spouse has any right to see.

Now, while there may not be a specific verse in the Bible that mentions dancing is a sin, there certainly is the principle of all that is associated with dancing. Lasciviousness is defined as "shamelessness or uncontrolled lust, insatiable desire for pleasure, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females." (Galatians 5:19; 1 Peter 4:3; Romans 13:13; 2 Peter 2:7). So, the word lascivious is used sensually and is defined as expressing lust or lewd conduct which excites lustful desires. And, the Bible tells us to flee lust and the passions of it (2 Timothy 2:22; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6; 1 Peter 2:11). Those who are being tempted to follow after the ways of the world are attempting to follow evil desires which come from a love for the world instead of God. Now, while some describe dancing as nothing more than rhythmical movements from simply body movements of a person expressing joy to that of one skilled in arousing powerful human emotions. Notice if you will, the case of Herodias's daughter in Mark 6:22-23. Her rhythmical movements or dance aroused the emotions of Herod in which he vowed to give her up to half of his kingdom. Moms and dads who proudly send their daughters to dance before the Herods of the world, can we honestly say this is good clean fun? Make no mistake, today's dance as with those in the past are filled with indecent or seductive bodily movements. So, why would Christian parents or Christian teens themselves want to place themselves into such a situation? The Bible goes even farther on this subject.

Look if you will to 1 Thessalonians 5:22, "Abstain from all appearance of evil." Even if it looks like it might be wrong, we need to stay away from it. We ought to ask ourselves, "would you dance before God the way you would dance at a dance?" Could you honestly say that this dance glorifies God or done in the name of the Lord? If you examined the dance

today of those that take place at prom and other places, would that dance be more like that of the world (Romans 12:2)? Make no mistake, dancing is a form of worldliness and it is wrong not only for those who participate, but because it also causes others to stumble and we are commanded to not be a stumblingblock to others (Romans 14:13; Lk. 17:1-3).

Notice in 1 Peter 4:1-4 and how it speaks of Christ and that he forsook sin so that mankind may be saved. Should we not make our lives be the same or should we enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season? When Peter speaks of these activities of the ancient world, we are able to associate those actions to the dances of today. Furthermore, when we look at Galatians 5:19-21, we see many of the same words that Peter used, but Paul goes one step further and uses the phrase, "such like" meaning that anything in the world that is similar to the types of things that have been mentioned are also works of the flesh. Certainly the modern dance places one in a situation where one is tempted to indulge in the works of the flesh and so we should abstain from it. In addition, John writes to Christians in 1 John 2:15-17, telling us to love not the world neither the things that are in the world and that we should avoid the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes. Well certainly, dancing is of the world and does bring about the lust of the eyes and lust of the flesh. You know, Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:33 "Be not deceived, evil companionships corrupt good morals" (ASV) Those in the world who go to and participate in dances go expecting to engage in something enticing and sexually arousing. They go with evil purposes in mind. The Christian who chooses to go to the dance surrounds himself with these evil companions. Why should a Christian purposefully want to ignore the inspired Words of God on this subject?

Now, some will attempt to justify dancing. For example, some say, well it is only ballet. Ever seen what a male ballet dancer wears? Some say, well, it is more of an art. It may be

true that the world sees it as an art, but since when has all art been decent? Have we not heard of Michelangelo's statue of David? Some are quick to point out dancing in the Old Testament (Exodus 15:20). True, this was dancing, but it was also only women dancing together. In addition, this dance was not what we have today, but was more of a jumping up and down with excitement over what had just taken place. Like in a sporting event, people will jump up and down with excitement. But, this is not deemed the definition of dance any longer nor is this what is practiced in dance halls. Now, there are other times when the word dance is referenced in the Bible. Dancers for the dead (Luke 7:32; Matthew 11:17), being joyous (Lamentations 5:15), and then there is the dancing of Exodus 32, where the men and women danced together to stimulate lust. Well, isn't it lust that leads to fornication?

Why can't Christians dance? Well, there can be no doubt that dancing is dangerous. The movements, the touching, the rubbing, the pressing of bodies together, the hearts pounding causes those of the opposite sex to have impure thoughts (Matthew 5:28). Dancing incites people, it makes adrenaline flow, including young people, to think about and feel things that will start them on the path to tragedy and heartbreak. And unfortunately, several children are born each year out of wedlock which was conceived on the night of many dances. Are we to say that dancing is the Christian thing to do? Dancing is not harmless. The modern dance holds many dangers for the Christian both young and old. Let us resolve to avoid the modern dance.

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