

Dancing

By Jay Horsley

Our culture is inundated with dancing. Establishments for dancing are everywhere and the media pipes it into our homes continuously. It is even promoted in our government schools. There you can dance for credit or be taught basic steps in some physical education classes. Teams of dancers and cheerleaders take the field immodestly attired (in school colors of course) to rouse (*arouse?*) the crowd. All men and older boys know the type of excitement that this brings (only naive women and liars deny it). Though the world approves this behavior, Christians cannot.

The scriptures clearly condemn such unrestrained behavior. “*Sensuality* (*“lasciviousness,”* KJV *“lewdness”* NKJV) is among the sins that are “*evil things*” that “*defile a man,*” **Mark 7:22,23**. This same “*sensuality*” is listed among the works of the flesh that will keep you out of heaven, **Gal. 5:19-21**. Since sensual dancing is full of worldly lust, we simply cannot take part, even if worldly people make fun of us for not doing it, **1 Pet. 4:3-5**.

To see just how incompatible sensual dancing (and all lustful activity) is with the Christian life, read this paragraph from the inspired book of God:

Eph. 4:17-20 “This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

20 But you did not learn Christ in this way”

Bible dictionaries define “*sensual*” (or the older word “*lascivious*”) in such a way as to leave no doubt that dancing is covered.

Thayer - “unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness, wantonness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence...wanton acts or manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females, etc.”

Vines - “excess, licentiousness, absence of restraint, indecency, wantonness...prominent idea is shameless conduct.”

Isn't this why are the terms “dirty,” “erotic,” “nude” and “forbidden,” are all applied to dancing (often to entice not condemn), but are never applied to carpentry, dentistry, fishing, preaching, or housekeeping?

Some old types of dancing may not be sinful in nature. Solomon declared “[*There is*] *A time to mourn, and a time to dance.*” (**Eccl. 3:4**) Some incidents of this in the scriptures include a woman dancing alone, **Judg. 11:34**; groups of women dancing in celebrations, **Judg. 21:21** & **1 Sam. 18:6**; a group of women dancing in worship, **Ex. 15:20,21**; and man alone dancing in worship, **2 Sam. 6:14,15**. Notice that most of these incidents of dancing are associated with worship. Indeed, this type of dance was commended, **Ps. 149:3; 150:4**. *But is sensual dancing worship of the God of heaven or the god of this world?*

The ancient world also had immoral dancing which the scriptures condemn. Sensual dancing was associated with the worship of the golden calf and fornication, **Ex. 32:19** (**1 Cor. 10:7**). It was sensual dance, with its excitement to lusting, that cost John the Baptist his head, **Matt. 14:6-8**.

Honestly assess if modern dancing is pure and worshipful or sensual and sinful. If we answer with God's wisdom, (“*So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*” **Eph. 5:17**) will we dance?

Even worldly people, in their honest moments, admit all the things that we would seek to prove about dancing, yet that naive, weak or rebellious Christians vainly try to deny. Historians say:

“Dancing is an art from to express lovemaking. For this reason steps and positions are designed to bring into physical contact those parts of a man and woman which are most sexually sensitive. Movements are designed to be visually simulating sexually.” Curt Sachs, World History of Dance.

“In folk dance the pair dance is often of erotic intention...Because of its physical appeal, dance lends itself to erotic purposes and has been practiced to these ends by both sexes.” “Dance” Encyclopedia Britannica.

Today, popular culture reaffirms this.

“Dancing together to any rhythm or beat also puts the spouses in harmony with their owns and each other's bodies in a way that other forms of exercise, intended to promote physical fitness, do not. And it is this connection that makes dancing so beneficial to couples who want to remain lifelong lovers.” Redbook, “12 Genuine Aphrodisiacs [No Kidding]” July 1990, pg. 103.

This would be fine for married couples in the privacy and intimacy of the things leading to the pure and undefiled marriage bed (**Heb. 13:4**). But what modest and right thinking Christian couple would make a public display of it? Is this to be shared in with others? Should we allow our young people to do it with multiple partners?

Let the dancers answer these scriptural questions to prove their dancing good:

Can I dance and “*abstain from every from of evil?*” **1 Thess. 5:22**

Is dancing a way to “*flee youthful lusts*” or incite them? **2 Tim. 2:22**

Will dancing “*corrupt good morals?*” **1 Cor. 15:33**

Would the actions of dancing be acceptable without music playing?

The modern practice of dancing is an obvious lustful expression of sexual excitement. Thus it is a sinful, unfruitful work of darkness from which all faithful Christians are to deliberately and conscientiously abstain. The immodesty, promiscuity and jealousy created by dancing brings heartaches, and even divorce, in addition to separation from God. “*Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE,*” says the Lord. “*AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you.*” (**2 Cor. 6:17**)