
Words of Truth

“Is Modern, Mixed Dancing Sinful?”

By: Brian A. Yeager

In amazement, I write this article. I say “in amazement” because I am absolutely shocked that some, who call themselves Christians, need to study this subject. A Christian is supposed to be someone who has purged himself/herself from carnal thinking (Ephesians 4:17-24). As Christians, we shouldn’t be asking what is wrong with something. We should first think about whether or not something is right (Ephesians 5:10, Colossians 3:17, and I Thessalonians 5:21). Even if something is not sinful, if we’re not sure it is right and we do it, that doubt makes even an authorized action sinful (Romans 14:23). You would think that Christians would understand these things, but I’ve learned not to underestimate the power of STUPIDITY!

Having said what we should all already know, when there are questions we are still bound to reason them out so that we know how to answer such questions (I Peter 3:15). Thus, we will use this article as a platform to understand what the Bible says about dancing. Please open your Bible and close your “personal opinions” (Proverbs 30:12 and James 1:22) as we Scripturally reason (Acts 17:1-2) about the subject of dancing. We’ll start with learning that some dancing can be right.

Some Forms Of Dancing Are Not Sinful

There is a dancing that occurs as a result of joy. Such dancing is not wrong (I Samuel 18:6 and Jeremiah 31:13). Dancing can be a sign of joy (Lamentations 5:15). In the Scriptures, dancing occurred when people turned their lives back to God, which is a reason for rejoicing (Luke 15:11-32). These were not dances done in clubs, schools, or other social events. These dances were not recorded as dances wherein males and females had close bodily contact promoting lust. These were not sexual types of movements done in the form of a dance. These were people dancing about in joy. That is what the Scriptures show us are good dances. This is the kind of dance I might do in my living room if my home loan was paid off. That does not mean I will go out to the club and do a little “bump and grind” with someone. While some dancing can be okay, there is a serious danger involved with dancing.

Dancing That Can Cause Lust Is Wrong

Whether or not two people rub their bodies together in dancing or not, dancing can be used to entice someone. Provocative movements of the human body CAN and HAVE been used to entice people. Notice: *“But when Herod’s birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias **danced before them, and pleased Herod**. Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask. And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, Give me here John Baptist’s head in a charger. And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath’s sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded*

it to be given her. And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison” (Matthew 14:6-10). Herodias’ daughter used her body to seduce not only Herod, but also them that sat with him as well (Mark 6:22). Herod was enticed enough by a dance to promise this girl whatever she wanted. This PROVES that a person can lose his/her ability to reason from the lust that can be brought about through dancing. How much more does an honest person need to know about the dangers of dancing to avoid it?

Knowing We Could Be Enticed, What Should We Do?

Look at these CLEAR COMMANDS: *“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak... Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness [“unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness”; Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon], not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof... Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul”* (Matthew 26:41, Romans 13:13-14, and I Peter 2:11). To act in a way that ignores the Scriptures you just read will result in eternal damnation (Romans 6:23 and Colossians 3:6). That is clear. Something else that should be clear is that the environments that promote such temptation are something to be avoided as well.

What About The Environments Dancing Often Occurs In?

What types of people are dancing at clubs, school dances, fitness centers, etc.? At the very least, they are people of the world. Shouldn’t that be enough to make us avoid even the places that dancing most often occurs in (Proverbs 4:14-15 and I Thessalonians 5:22)? How could a Christian even begin to make an argument to be in such environments? Most of us are aware of the fact that events such as “Prom Night” most often end in acts of fornication. The goal of most people going clubbing is to “hook up” (again, fornication). Knowing these things, why would we want to be in such environments with those types of people? Have you considered what arguing for dancing (the kind of dancing that occurs in bad environments and/or involves lewd bodily movements) says about a person?

Why Does He Or She Want Dancing So Bad?

If someone defends Playboy magazine, we know what that says about him or her. If someone defends bars, we know what that says about him or her. What good comes from club dancing or high school proms? Can you really say such actions are to the glory of God (cf. I Corinthians 10:31)? Why does someone want to defend certain dangerous forms of dancing and the atmospheres wherein such dances occur? If all one wants to do is dance, why can’t they do it at home? The answer is obvious, this person likes the ungody atmosphere and thus they want to JUSTIFY it (Proverbs 21:2)!

Conclusion

The urge to be involved in modern forms of lewd dancing and the places such occurs in will not exist amongst those who have put those desires to death (Galatians 5:24). If you are defensive about dancing, ask yourself whether such is a defense of your desires or of God’s desires. That should, if everything else hasn’t already, solve this question (I John 2:16).