

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE DANCE

The standard for our study of this controversial subject is the word of God, the Bible. The Bible (inspired scripture) is capable of furnishing man unto every good work (II Timothy 3:16-17), and provides him with all that pertains unto life and Godliness (II Peter 1:3). Therefore it is a perfect standard. On the day of judgment man will not be judged by what the majority of mankind said or did, but by the words of God and His Son, Jesus (John 12:48).

GOD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SIN

The Bible teaches that God loves those souls in sin (John 3:16), but that he hates sin (Proverbs 6:16-19) as it separates man from Him (Isaiah 59:1-2). Those who love and respect God hate sin as well (Psalms 97:10; Proverbs 8:13). Sin is a transgression of God's word (I John 3:4) and is responsible for the death of His son.

GOD DEMANDS PURITY

God has always demanded purity on the part of His people. This is evident from the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 5:6-14, 7:1-6, 18:9-14) and the New Testament as well. Christians are,

- A people for God's own possession — I Peter 2:9.
- To keep themselves pure - I Timothy 5:22.
- To be pure in heart - Matthew 5:8.
- To keep themselves unspotted from the world — James 1:27.
- Not to love the ways of the world - I John 2:15-17.
- Not to conform to the ways of the world - Romans 12:1-2.
- To abstain from every form of evil - I Thesalonians 5:22.

HOW DOES DANCING VIOLATE GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING PURITY?

IMMODESTY: God's word teaches that women are to dress in modest clothing which becometh women professing godliness - I Timothy 2:9-10. Describing his dancing establishment the General Manager of the "Amnesia" stated,

⇒ People have been known to get, shall we say, rather uninhibited at these parties. Not that that's necessarily bad or anything. Here, partial or full nudity is a plus - This is the South Beach, after all." (*The Columbus Dispatch*, October 14, 1995, Columbus Ohio)

While all dances may not go to this extreme, immodesty is a characteristic of the modern dance.

DRUGS: The same General Manager had this to say about drugs,

⇒ And as far as booze, absolutely. But only in plastic cups, and no beer bottles. You want drugs? Okey-Dokey. But if you get busted, baby, you're on your own." (*The Columbus Dispatch*, quoted above).

DANCING IS SEXUALLY ORIENTED: Ellen Switzer writing in the *Ladies Home Journal*, November 1981 states,

⇒ Sex does not have to conclude with orgasm to be satisfying. Sex therapists report that touch is often an end in itself. So too, is kissing, even dancing. These *sexual activities* can be ...

The Latin dance "Lambada" is described as,

⇒ It is a close dance, with male and female partners entwined around each other, grinding their hips together. . . This is about the closest you can get to having

sex without actually doing it. (*The Herald-Citizen*, Cookeville, TN, March 15, 1990)

The modern dance violates God's will for man. In Galatians 5:19-21 Paul identifies the works of the flesh which can keep man out of the kingdom of God. One of these works is *lasciviousness*. This term is defined by Thayer in his Greek lexicon as,

⇒ Wanton (acts, or) manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females.

The lexicon of Arndt and Gingrich defines *lasciviousness* as: licentiousness, which is defined as,

⇒ Lacking legal or moral restraints, disregarding sexual restraints.

There is no doubt that the modern dance which is engaged in today fits the definition of lasciviousness and is condemned as a work of the flesh. To substantiate the lascivious nature of modern dancing monitor the dance programs on television.

IN DEFENSE OF THE DANCE

Some who advocate that it is permissible for Christians to dance are defending their position and practice by appealing to the Bible. Their defense is, "Dancing is spoken of in the Bible; people engaged in it and were not condemned by God. From this premise they reach the conclusion that opposition to this form of "recreation" is merely a tradition held by a few preachers, elders, parents, and adults.

REFERENCES TO DANCING IN THE BIBLE

The Bible passages on dancing can be placed in the following categories:

A. Women dancing with women or by themselves. Judges 21:21, 21:23; Exodus 15:20; Judges 11:34; I Samuel 18:6-7, 21:11, 29:5.

B. The dance as an act of worship unto Jehovah, Psalms 149:3, 150:4. King David danced before