

"WHAT ABOUT DANCING?"

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

Often a person will ask the question, "Is dancing healthful and harmless entertainment?" To make a blanket statement and answer this in the negative really would not be honest, thus I will attempt to elaborate briefly.

Since the invention of modern dance - people of various faiths have opposed such. Jesus said that one would be known by his/her fruits (Matthew 7:16). In searching the history of dancing one will trace it to the pagans. They put the sexes together in lewd (Off-color, suggestive, obscene, unclean, foul, etc.) dances. However, this was not always the situation. Sometimes, dancing is mentioned in secular and Bible history with good content. Satan seemingly always gets his way and corrupts anything and everything.

In today's world - much "to do" has been made of sex. Therefore, many would agree that when two people of the opposite sex get together and touch for any length of time - harm can come from such.

I recall an elderly Christian man once told me that while he served as a military Chaplain he counseled many couples who were encountering a divorce. He said that as he inquired as to what had caused them to forgo their love for each other and pursue the companionship of another the answer he received nearly 90% of the time was - "It started on the dance floor". Being in the arms of another person, other than one's spouse, the smell of another kind of perfume or after shave, the rubbing of the body or suggestive movements, created a lust that went "on and on" until adultery was performed in the mind and then physically. Jesus had something to say about this in Matthew 5:28, "I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart".

Many have avoided dancing due to Scriptures such as "Avoid every appearance of evil" (I Thessalonians 5:22). Dancing is often associated with drink, drugs, and immorality. However, seemingly the Lawrence Welk type dancing has not proven to be offensive to many. The dancing of married couples in the privacy of their own home is seemingly not questioned by anyone. The "bottomline" of the question is - one must make up his/her own mind as to whether this recreation is going to elevate Christ or demean him.

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