

DANCING

A. **Dancing** has always been a popular social & recreation activity.

1. From the primitive to the highly artistic, some form of dance is in every culture & civilization.
2. But our participation in any activity should not be determined by how popular it is or by our social status, peer pressure, or even by the culture in which we live.
3. God's word is to rule our lives in all areas: *social, economic, domestic, moral, & religious.*

B. **When** the subject of "dancing" comes up we think of school dances, bars & nightclubs.

1. But the Bible has more to say on the subject of dance than addressing the illicit forms that are designed to stir up lust & lead us into sin.

C. **As** we view the declining moral values in America, a thing like dancing hardly seems worth mentioning.

1. But that would be a mistake the Devil would like to see us make.
 - a. He would love for us let down our guard on a subject like this.
 - b. Because all of the obvious sins begin with the less noticeable more deceitful forms of sin.

[**Being** Christians doesn't prohibit us from having a good time. **But** let's not be deceived into thinking that to have a good time we must engage in an immoral, questionable or doubtful activity.]

I. FORMS OF DANCING

A. **Amusement:** childlike play

Matt 11:16-17 – But to what shall I liken this generation? It is like *children* sitting in the marketplaces & calling to their companions, 17 & **saying: 'We played the flute for you, & you did not dance;** we mourned to you, & you did not lament.' (Job 21:11-13; Ecc 3:4).

B. Rejoicing: special occasions

Judg 11:34 – When *Jephthah* [defeated Ammonites] came to his house at Mizpah, there was *his daughter, coming out to meet him with timbrels & dancing;* & she was his only child.

1 Sam 18:6 – Now it had happened as they were coming home, when David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, that *the women had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing & dancing...with tambourines, with joy, & with musical instruments* (Psa 30:11; Jer 31:4, 13).

C. Worship: expression of joy & gratitude to God

Exo 15:20-21 – Then *Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took the timbrel in her hand; & all the women went out after her with timbrels & with dances.* 21 And Miriam answered them: "Sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse & its rider He has thrown into the sea!"

2 Sam 6:14-15 – Then *David danced before the LORD with all his might; & David was wearing a linen ephod.* 15 So David & all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting & with the sound of the trumpet (1 Chr 15:29; Jud 21:19ff; Psa 149:3).

[As in the example of Miriam, the women always danced alone or in a group with other women.

So God's word didn't condone the dancing of mixed couples under the Old Law for *amusement, special occasions* or *worship*, & neither does His word condone such today.]

II. THE MEANING OF MODERN DANCING

World Book Encyclopedia – "The dance is the language of the body. It draws people together in their thoughts & feelings."

Encyclopedia Britannica – "Infectious response is a part of dance, the two-way process of motion & emotion."

A. Dancing is the language of the body that produces a response of thoughts.

1. Depending on the form of dance the thoughts spawned will differ (wholesome or unwholesome).

2. A DANCE MAKES A STATEMENT!

B. What statements are made by these dances?

1. **David's** dance before the LORD – Statement:
"I am excited, elated, joyful & grateful!"
2. **Native Americans** rain & war dances –
Statement: *"Help us Great Spirit!"*
3. **Ballet** – Statement: *"Let us tell you a story."*
(There is a modesty factor to consider).
4. **Ice & gymnastic dances, "Dancing With The Stars"** – Statement: *"We want to be #1!"*
(A modesty factor to consider)
5. **Cheerleading, dance teams** – Statements:
"We want to appeal to your sexual feelings."
6. **Modern dances (school) where couples embrace & or move their bodies very close to one another** – Statement: *"I want to show you intimate affection."*

C. When any action causes you to think or act contrary to God law it is fundamentally wrong.

1. The statements made by social dancing are clear.
 - a. The rhythmic movements of the bodies mimic the intimacy that should only exist between married couples.
 - b. Any habit or custom that is sensual is demonic (**Jas 3:15**).

D. When the new sensual dances came on the scene, they were even denounced by - world.

1. Roseland Ballroom (a dance emporium in NYC), banned the Twist as *"vulgar & offensive."*
2. Bob Hope commented, *"If they turned off the music they would all be arrested."*

3. But early forms of recreational dance have long since been replaced by new even more vile forms of dance to go along with the new forms of music: hip-hop & rap.
4. How have all the evil forms of dance come to be so widely accepted today?

Pope: A vice [*evil habit*] is a manner of so frightful...as to be hated but needs to be seen. Yet, seen too oft, familiar with her face, we first endure, then pity, then embrace.

[The fact that lewd dances are now embraced does not mean that they are no longer vice.

As Bob Hope pointed out, people will do many things when the lights get low that they would never consider doing in the broad daylight (*Eph 5:7ff*)

III. DANCING AS AN ENTICEMENT TO SIN

A. Arouses Unlawful Sexual Thoughts & Feelings.

Luke 4:13 – Now when *the devil* had ended every temptation, he *departed from Him until an opportune time*.

He found an opportune time to tempt Herod

Mark 6:21-22 – Then an opportune day came when Herod on his birthday gave a feast for his nobles, the high officers, & the chief men of Galilee. 22 And when *Herodias' daughter herself came in & danced, & pleased Herod* & those who sat with him, the king said to the girl, "Ask me whatever you want, & I will give it to you."

He loves school dances; they are opportune times to tempt young people.

Matt 5:27-28 – You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that *whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart*.

1. Today's dances unleash fleshly lusts making it impossible to "*walk in the Spirit*" (*Gal 5:16*).
2. The Holy Spirit condemns "*licentiousness*" (*Gal 5:19*) as a work of the flesh.
 - a. Thayer – "*wanton (undisciplined, unruly) acts or manners, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of m & f*".

Joe Piro, who taught Jackie Kennedy the Twist, *“The girls really love these dances. The girl is free to do what she wants to. Now they can be as wild as they feel. On the dance floor, they have no inhibitions.”*

3. The modern dances wear down the self-restraint we normally use against sin.
4. But someone (usually a young female) will say, *“It doesn’t affect me that way.”*
 - a. Then you need to consider the affect your dancing has on others.

B. Causes Others To Sin (Matt 18:2-7; Jas 1:12-16).

1. This should be enough evidence to convince anyone that the modern dance has no place in the lives of Christians.
2. It should offend your conscience (Rom 14:23).

CLOSING

A. Before undertaking any activity, it will help to ask these questions.

1. Will it enable me to live a morally pure life?
2. Will it lead me to a fuller commitment to Christ?
3. Will it help me grow in the grace & knowledge of the Lord?
4. Will it lead someone to a better understanding of God’s will?

- a. Passages to consider: 2 Tim 2:22; 1 Cor 6:18-20; Jas 1:27; 1 Thess 4:2-5; 5:21-22; 1 Pet 2:11

B. An honest person with an unbiased mind can understand that modern dancing is an introduction to evil & sin.

1. Christians would do well to put this form of entertainment out of their lives & replace it with activities they can enjoy with their fellow Christians.
2. Parents can plan descent activities on “prom night.” This takes foresight, planning & a general concern for your spiritual family.