

Monday, September 18, 2017 - Christians and the modern dance

God desires that we be morally pure. We should engage only in the activities that will promote Christian growth and character. It isn't difficult to see that a polluted cloud of moral filth engulfs our world. On every hand there are encouragements to do wrong, and our nation is increasingly ignoring the plea to repent.

The modern social dance does not promote Christian growth or character. Many teenage and adult Christians participate in dancing simply because they have never been taught its dangers. Some others have been taught the truth on this subject, but have refused to accept the truth.

It is never popular to condemn sin and it is even less popular when it is a sin that people enjoy. Christians are constantly called upon to make decisions concerning the activities they engage in. God's expectation for us is that we make those decisions based upon Biblical instructions, not the opinion of the world or peer pressure. If one is to accept and practice what the Bible approves, you must reject and oppose that which it condemns. The weight of popular opinion often condones what the Bible condemns. This forces a Christian, when faced with such decisions, to either break with the popularity of the world or break with the teachings of God. The Bible is the standard by which the Christian determines right and wrong. To know what is right, one must understand the moral principles God has given in his word.

The Bible mentions dancing with great frequency. Exodus 15:20 speaks of Miriam and the other women of Israel dancing after safely passing through the Red Sea. David danced before Jehovah after Israel's return of the ark of the covenant (2 Sam. 6:14). Following David's defeat of the Philistines, "the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing . . ." (1 Sam. 18:6).

It should be noted, however, that the "dancing" referred to in the Bible (particularly the Old Testament) "was nothing more than jumping or whirling about in excitement and joy." The modern social dance is very different from the "dancing" referred to in the passages cited above.

There are a number of New Testament words that relate clearly to the modern social dance. Paul, in Galatians 5:19-21, gives two broad categories of sin which take dancing into account. The Greek word *aselgeia* is translated "lasciviousness" in the KJV and "debauchery" in the NIV. It has reference to " . . . indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females." The modern dance does involve "indecent bodily movements." It excites the sexual nature of the male and the female, leading to the "unchaste handling" of both.

Another Greek word that takes dancing into account is *komos*, translated "revellings" in the KJV and "orgies" in the NIV. Green defines *komos* as "merry-making . . . a revel, lascivious feasting." To revel is "to carouse, to indulge one's

inclinations or fancy . . . to take one's fill of pleasure." Liddell and Scott suggest that komos is closely associated with "music and dancing."

The modern dance involves bodily contact between males and females and leads to sexual arousal and sensuality. It is always wrong for a person to put himself in a situation where he cannot control his thoughts and actions. God has created us with sexual needs and desires and he has provided an outlet to fulfill those needs and desires: MARRIAGE. In marriage two people can express their most intimate feelings without shame or guilt.

Dancing is an unnecessary risk to one's spiritual life. The tension between the flesh and spirit is great. Paul writes: "Walk by the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for they are contrary the one to the other" (Gal. 5:16-17).

Dancing requires a person to associate himself with an atmosphere that is destructive to his Christian character! Typically, dancing takes place where there is drinking and carousing. One cannot possibly maintain pure thoughts and motives in such an environment.

Dancing damages one's influence; making it impossible to be the person God wants him to be. Jesus said that we are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Mt. 5:13-16). One loses or gains another's respect more by his conduct than by anything else.

I know there are those who say, "my child is only XX (age). What harm can there be?" Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it." It states nothing about sending mixed signals regarding right and wrong dependent on their age.

In addition, there are those that state, "My child would never have those kinds of thoughts." If you truly are fooled into thinking this, I pray you wake up to the reality that Satan will ensure your child is exposed, in some fashion, to that which will stir one to have impure thoughts, and act in impure ways.

The final point, regarding Galatians 5, deals with the phrase "and such like." It is rendered from the Greek kai ta homoia toutois. Paul is making clear that he is not limiting the works of the flesh to specific acts characteristic of his day and time but to all such conduct. Surely we can see that the modern dance clearly places one in a situation to participate in the works of the flesh. From such things we must flee!

Consider these other passages:

* 1 Peter 2:11 - "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul...."

Peter was writing to Christians who were being tempted to follow after the ways of the world to fit into society. He tells them that they need to abstain from fleshly lusts. Fleshly lusts are evil desires that come from a love of the world and not a love of God. These fleshly lusts are said to war or fight against the soul. By this we understand him to say that by fulfilling these lusts, these desires, we will put ourselves into a situation where our Christianity will be challenged--where Satan will have opportunity to tempt us and where we will be discouraged from trying to do what is right. Now if the modern dance does not fall into this category, I do not know what does. Those who participate in the modern dance will be challenged in their Christianity, they will give Satan an opportunity to tempt them and they will be discouraged from trying to do what is right. Why would a Christian want to place oneself into such a situation?

* 1 Thessalonians 5:22 - "Abstain from all appearance of evil."

If it even looks like it might be wrong, then we need to keep away from it. There can be no doubt that some of the movements in the modern dance have the appearance of evil and so we should abstain from it.

* 1 John 2:15-17 "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

The modern dance is a thing of the world and when we demonstrate that we love things of the world more than we love God, God's love no longer abides in us. Why would we want to remove ourselves from the love of God for an hour or two of worldly pleasure?

* 1 Corinthians 15:33 "Be not deceived, evil companionships corrupt good morals."

Those in the world who go to and participate in the modern dance go there expecting to engage in something enticing and titillating. They go with evil purposes in mind. The Christian who chooses to go to the dance surrounds himself with these evil companionships.

The Spirit of Christ is to dwell in us when we put Him on in baptism. So the question I ask you, in regards to the modern dance, is "What would Jesus do?"