

Remember your Creator
in the days of your youth,
before the days of trouble
come and the years approach
when you will say,
"I find no pleasure in them".

Ecclesiastes 12:1



Bruce Reeves
Highway 65 Church of Christ
Conway, AR
Brochuck1@aol.com

Should A Christian Go To The Dance?



An Attitude Upon Which We Can All Agree

- **Am I a person who is striving to apply Biblical principles to every decision I make and every activity in which I participate (Col. 3:17)?**
- **Am I person who seeks to avoid questionable decisions in my life?**
- **Or am I a person who seeks to get away with as much as is possible?**
- **Am I more concerned with approval of my friends than I am God?**
- **Is the argument “Where does the Bible say, ‘Thou shall not go to the dance’” legitimate?**

Arguments In Defense of the Christian Attending A Dance

- **“Dancing is in the Bible”**
 - **Questions to ask:**
 - **Who danced?**
 - **With whom did they dance?**
 - **Why did they dance?**
 - **Was the dance similar to today's dances?**

Arguments In Defense of the Christian Attending A Dance

“Dancing is in the Bible”

- **Public rejoicing – to leap for joy, circle dancing often segregated by gender (Judges 11:34; I Sam. 18:6-7; Lam. 5:15; Luke 15:25).**
- **Worship to God (Exodus 15:20-21; 2 Sam. 6:14-23; I Chron. 15:29; Psalm 149:3).**
- **Dancing which involves men and women interacting closely (Exodus 32:19-20; Matt. 14:3-12).**
- **Into which one of these categories does the modern dance fall?**

Arguments In Defense of the Christian Attending A Dance

“I can dance without having lustful thoughts.”

- **Due to the nature of dancing, lyrics, desires, actions, and the strength of temptation this is questionable.**
- **Jesus warns us about our thoughts (Matthew 5:28-30).**
- **How will it influence others (Rom. 14:15).**
- **“People will have those thoughts anyway” (I Thess. 5:22).**
- **We must do our part to help.**

Arguments In Defense of the Christian Attending A Dance

“It is accepted socially”

- **This cannot be the basis of our decisions (Rom. 12:1, 2; I Cor. 15:33; Col. 3:1, 2; I Peter 1:13-16).**
- **In order to be “salt” and “light” we must be different than the world (Matt. 5:13-16).**
- **Strive to pursue the sanctification of Christ (2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; I Peter 2:9).**



Arguments In Defense of the Christian Attending A Dance

“I’m Just There”

- **I realize that it is possible to be at the dance and not participate – why attend an event in which the primary purpose of the event itself subjects you to temptation (2 Tim. 2:22).**
- **Is this where Christ would have us to be?**
- **Are we compromising with the world?**
- **Have we become desensitized to the enticements of sin?**
- **Does this activity have the potential to hurt our spiritual wellbeing (Psalm 1:1-2)?**

Biblical Arguments Against Attending The Dance

**The Bible condemns “carousing”
(Galatians 5:21; Rom.14:13; I Pet. 4:3).**

**“Nocturnal and riotous procession...used
generally of feasts and drinking parties that
are protracted till last at night and indulge
in revelry”**

(Thayer, 367).

Biblical Arguments Against Attending The Dance

**The Bible condemns “lasciviousness,”
“debauchery,” and “sensuality”**

**(2 Cor. 12:21; Gal. 5:19; Eph. 4:19; 2 Pet. 2:2, 7,
18; Jude 4).**

**“Unbridled lusts, excess licentiousness,
lasciviousness, wantonness, outrageousness,
shamelessness, filthy words, indecent bodily
movements, unchaste handling of males and
females”**

(Thayer, 79-80)

Is Dancing Sensual?

Professor Louis J. Guyon, who owned and operated Paradise Ballrooms, one of Chicago's largest dance halls, once wrote, "We know that sex is the strongest impulse planted in the human race. You can just picture the effect on a boy or girl of 18 or 20, when this hunger is keenest, when knowledge and experience are lacking in the formation of judgment, of one of these dances which calls for close bodily contact and frequently brings the cheeks together and entwine the limbs. Yet, we find thousands of boys and girls dancing in this very way who do not realize they are doing anything out of the way, and whose fool parents look on complacently..."

Is Dancing Sensual?

When you are told that youth of both sexes can...survive this experience without mental, moral, and physical pollution, you know the teller lies...If you can believe youth is the same after this experience as before, then God help your child or your charge, for you are not fit for your responsibility If you do not believe I have correctly described the modern dances and their effect, you either have not seen them performed or you are willfully blind to their true character.”

Is Dancing Sensual?

Article regarding schools' concerns about dances and proms, *"What is the difference between frontal body rubbing and one person rubbing a backside against a front side...it's all sexy. Dancing is sexy. But so what? It's not sex. It's flirtation."* The article ended by saying, *"What it is, educators from New Hampshire to Washington state are growing increasingly agitated"* (Seema Mehta, Times Staff Writer, October 17, 2006).

Is Dancing Sensual?

- Prof. W.C. Wilkerson of Chicago University: “It is a ‘system of means, contrived with more than human creativity, it is meant to excite the instinct of sexual action.”
- Dr. Rita Rollingsworth: “Dancing is an exciting, pleasurable activity as it affords a partial satisfaction of the sex impulse...Dancing in fact, is such an erotic stimuli that it even works for boys and girls as young as the age of 11.”

Does Dancing Create Sinful Lusts?

- Cybergown.com says this: “The sexy necklines look good but try not to wear a necklace for a more astonishing sexy look...This time the prom dresses have become more and more seductive.”
- The headlines say it all: “How To Have The Most Romantic Night Ever,” “Tonight Will Last Forever,” “Dresses So Hot They Sizzle,” “Your Hottest Prom Body,” “Sex-Its Your call.”
- These are the messages being marketed to teens regarding the Prom from Magazines such as “Seventeen,” “Young and Modern,” “Prom Magazine,” and “Your Prom.”

Dances Can Be A Prelude To Other Sins

- **Immodesty will certainly be present (Rom. 6:11-13; I Tim. 2:9-11; Titus 2:11-15; I Peter 3:1-4).**
- **Post dance activities often include drinking and sexual immorality (I Cor. 6:12-18).**
- **Thoughts that should not be a part of our heart (Eph. 4:19-24; 2 Cor. 10:3-5).**

Dances Can Be A Prelude To Other Sins

- **Pictures will be posted to social media and your presence will send the message that you support dancing in general.**
- **Why subject yourself to such temptation?**
- **Parents must ask themselves if this is really in the best interest of their sons and daughters.**
- **So thankful for individuals who are involved in offering an alternative to the prom so our young people can be free of such an environment.**

How To Make A Good Decision

- **Arm yourselves with the mind of Christ (I Peter 4:1).**
- **Pray and watch (I Peter 4:7).**
- **Consider your example and influence (Phil. 2:14-16).**
- **Think about the value of your discipleship (Matthew 16:24-26).**