

Why We Don't Participate in the Modern Dance

John Isaac Edwards

Pressures to participate in the modern dance are many and begin early in life.

Young children are encouraged to dance along with their favorite fictional characters. With Dance Star Mickey, “Now kids can get up and dance as their fun-loving pal Mickey Mouse comes to life right before their eyes! The new, innovative Dance Star Mickey walks, talks, and dances his way into kids’ hearts, topping off his skills with an ‘out of this world’ grand finale to one of his signature dances. With one press of Mickey’s foot, Dance Star Mickey comes to life for a fun interactive experience that encourages kids to get up, get active and dance.”

Some school systems have implemented dance education curriculum. At the primary school, there’s the 50’s dance. Time is taken out of the day for students to learn to dance. The school building is decked out with a 50’s theme, with faculty wearing the garb to match. In Junior High, there is the Valentine’s dance and MORP (prom spelled backwards). Prom (short for promenade) has become a rite of passage for many high school students and their families.

There are the school dance teams and show choir competitions which combine song and dance.

Numerous movies and television shows have plots based on dance or have dance scenes.

And on it goes!

1) *Some Things Men Have Said.* J. Edgar Hoover, former head of the FBI, said, “Most juvenile crime has its inception in the dance hall, either public or private.”

William H. Holmes, a former dancing teacher, said, “I found the ballrooms an avenue of destruction to multitudes...”

The owner and operator of a ballroom, speaking to a group of parents, made this comment about dancing, “When you are told that youth of both sexes can survive this experience without moral, mental 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 mentally fit for your responsibility.”

A former owner of one of Chicago’s largest dance halls said, “We know the natural

desires of youth. We know that sex is the strongest impulse planted in the human race...you can picture the effect on a boy or girl...when this hunger is keenest...at one of these dances which calls for close abdominal contact and frequently brings the cheeks together and entwines the limbs...There is... but one reason for its popularity. That reason is sex appeal. I hasten to assure you that I do not believe that dancers always are conscious this is the reason they enjoy this position and the steps that go with it. But this lack of consciousness is merely an added factor of danger.”

Dr. J.P. Gibson said, “Among those who dance it is noteworthy that very few girls spend much time dancing with other girls. Neither do men dance very much with their own wives, nor brothers with their own sisters...the secret of the popularity of dancing (or is it a secret) is the exciting, sexual stimulation resulting from the close embrace of male and female whether it be with music in dancing or without music in petting and necking.”

Dr. E.S. Sonners, a nerve specialist of Chicago, stated, “I attack the modern dance as a reversion toward

medical man, I flatly charge that modern dancing is fundamentally sinful and evil. I charge that dancing is the most advanced and the most insidious maneuvering preliminary to sex betrayal. It is nothing more than damnable, diabolical, animal, physical dissipation. I tell you the basic spell of the dance is the spell of illicit physical contact. Under what other shield can a man or woman, a youth or maiden, so promiscuously fondle so many of the opposite sex in a single night — or a lifetime? We doctors know there are mysterious affinities that seem almost chemical. I am no prig or prude, and so I tell you frankly that it is not safe to subject even the strongest men and women to the subtle temptations of the dance.”

2) *What the Bible Says.*

This is our primary concern. Principles from the Scriptures, when applied to the modern dance, answer why we do not take part in such activities.

Lasciviousness is a work of the flesh. Among the “works of the flesh”, Paul mentioned “lasciviousness” and said, “...that they which do

such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal. 5:19-21). Lasciviousness is defined as: Having wanton desires; lustful; lewd. Tending to produce sensual desires. Characterized by or expressing lust or lewdness; wanton. Tending to excite lustful desires. Wanton (acts or) manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females, etc. Anything that tends to produce lewd emotions, create evil thoughts, or excite unlawful sensual desire is lasciviousness. If this does not include the modern dance, what does it include?

Flee lust. “Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart” (2 Tim. 2:22). Is the modern dance a righteous pursuit? Does it place one among them that are of a pure heart? “Abstain from all appearance of evil” (1 Th. 5:22). “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul” (1 Pet. 2:11). When one enters the dance room, he has moved into a spiritual war zone!

Flee fornication. “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body” (1 Cor. 6:18). We are to mortify or put to death earthly members, including fornication (Col. 3:5).

Keep unspotted from the world. “Pure religion and undefiled before God” involves being “unspotted from the world” (Jas. 1:27). When we love the world, the love of the Father is not in us (1 Jn. 2:15). We are not to be conformed to this world, but be transformed (Rom. 12:1-2). “...know ye not that friendship of the world is enmity with God?...” (Jas. 4:4).

Be holy. “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy” (1 Pet. 1:14-15).

Let your light shine. “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world” (Phil. 2:15).

Let’s remember our calling and keep our reputation (1 Pet. 2:9-11).

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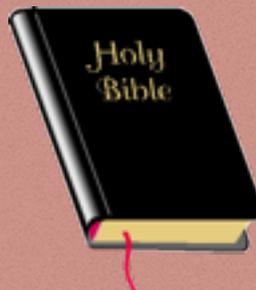
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