Dancing

Intro: Dancing had become accepted in our society even though it is an action which at one time was condemned by all. One of the definitions given by Webster’s is, “to move or seem to move up and down or about in a quick or lively manner,” and for dance, “a series of rhythmic and patterned bodily movements usually performed to music.”

I. DANCING IN THE BIBLE
   A. Dance and its various forms are mentioned 27 times in the KJV.
      1. 18 times it is mentioned without approval or disapproval.
      2. 5 times in an approving way
      3. 4 times in connection with sin.
   B. Dancing comes from various word
      1. In the Greek:
         a. The main word is ὀρχεῖομαι (orcheomai)
         b. Then χορός (choros)
      2. In the Hebrew:
         a. The main word is machowlah.
         b. The other words used are chuwel, karar, chagag, raqad.
         c. The ASV translates duwts as danceth while the KJV has joy.
   C. The dancing then:
      1. Their dancing:
         a. There was solo dancing; 2 Sam. 6:14 “And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod.”
         b. There was man dancing with men; Jer. 31:13 “Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow.”
         c. There was women dancing with women; 1 Sam. 18:6 “And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick.”
         d. Never does the Bible speak of mixed dancing: men with women.
      2. Their dancing was more the jumping up and down for joy.
      3. There is no similarity between the dancing in the Bible and the modern dance.

II. THE MODERN DANCE
   A. The Works of the flesh.
      1. Gal. 5:19-21 “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 2Th Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 3Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”
      2. Lasciviousness:
         a. It is the Greek ἀσελγεία (aselgeia).
         (1) Strong defines this as: “unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness, wantonness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence.”
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(2) Vine adds, “absence of restraint, indecency,... The prominent idea is shameless conduct.”

(3) Definitions like this could be multiplied many times over.

b. The main idea of lasciviousness is that which tends to cause lust, wantonness, or shameless conduct.

c. The modern dance is shameless in its conduct and does promote lust in those engaging in it.

(1) After defining this Greek word, Thayer quotes Fritzscbe’s comments from Romans 13:13 “wanton (acts or) manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females, etc.”

(2) The modern dance is filled with indecent bodily movements and handling of each other in an unchaste way.

3. Revellings:

a. It is the Greek κόμοος (komos).

(1) Vine defines it: “a revel, carousel.”

(2) Thayer says: “used generally, of feast and drinking-parties that are protracted till late at night and indulge in revelry.”

(3) Liddell and Scott say: “a revel, carousel, merrymaking,... it ended in the party parading the streets crowned, bearing torches, singing, dancing, and playing frolics.”

b. Revellings refer to parties in which drinking, singing or music, and dancing are engaged.

(1) There is no doubt that this is involved in the majority of cases where the modern dance is practiced.

(2) Goebel Music wrote: “There can be no doubt but that revelry is any dance accompanied by ‘jovial festivity with music and dancing.’ No one can remove the fact that dancing is revelry!... you will be forced to admit that dancing is a mode of revelling and the Bible says that those who practice such ‘shall not inherit the Kingdom of Heaven’”

4. And Such Like:

a. There are so many things like those he mentioned that he could not state everything.

b. Anything like these other actions would fall under the same condemnation.

c. The modern dance would also fall under this category.

B. Purity:

1. The Christian is to be pure:

a. Mat. 5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”

b. 2 Cor. 11:2 “For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”

c. As Christ’s bride (Eph. 5) we are to remain pure and Old Testament allow ourselves to be defiled.
2. God’s grace teaches us purity of life.
   a. Tit. 2:11-12 “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”
   b. 1 Pet. 2:11 “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;”
3. For pure religion; Jam. 1:27 “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”
4. Modern dance is not designed to retain purity.
   a. Its design is to cause lust and impurity.
   b. Gal. 5:24 “And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”

III. WHY DANCE?
A. Many excuses are given for dancing.
   1. Exercise
   2. The love of music
   3. To make them more graceful
B. There is only one real reason.
   a. It excites the sexual passions God placed within each person.
   b. The dance would not last long if they separated the sexes and it was only same sex dancing.
      (1) Men only dancing with men.
      (2) Women only dancing with women.

Conclusion: Christians need to abstain from this type of evil; 1 Th. 5:21-22 “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil.”