

LET THEM DANCE? – GALATIANS 5:19-21

INTRODUCTION

1. School is back in session and with fall just around the corner so is football, homecoming, and of course, school dances.
2. With each passing year, there is an ongoing need for us as a church family and as parents to revisit certain moral issues and questions with our young people in light of God's word.
3. So, let's consider again the subject of dancing and how the Bible's teaching deals with it.

DISCUSSION

I. WHY DO YOU WANT TO DANCE?

- A. As we begin, I want us to start in a place that maybe we don't focus on enough.
- B. And that is, why are we even having this discussion?
- C. What is our motivation in wanting to dance?
- D. Parents, what is our motivation in allowing or not allowing our kids to dance?
- E. What is it that we are seeking?
 - i. Is it just about good, clean fun or something else?
 - ii. Is it about being liked, admired, or fitting in?
- F. For people who profess to follow Jesus, our motive is important.
- G. Regardless of what we are talking about, what should our motives be?
 - i. Are we wanting to be more like Jesus (**Matt. 10:24-25**)?
 - ii. Are we wanting to glorify God (**1 Cor. 6:19-20**)?
 - iii. Are we wanting to fully please Him in all we do (**Col. 1:9-10**)?
 - iv. Are we wanting to let God transform us (**Rom. 12:1-2**)?
- H. Again, for people who profess to follow Jesus, our motive is important.
- I. So, what really is our motive here?
- J. Is it rooted in concern about God's will or friends or peer pressure?
- K. If you are going to follow Jesus, you are going to be different (**Matt. 5:13-16**).
 - i. That means you aren't going to be able to live like everyone else.
 - ii. That means sometimes you are going to be left out.
 - iii. That means sometimes you may even be ridiculed for it.
- L. As you reason through, this do some honest self-examination about your motives and recognize why you want to dance and what you are really seeking from it.

II. WHAT IS WRONG WITH DANCING?

- A. As we dig into our subject a little deeper, we need to recognize that the real issue isn't really with dancing itself.
- B. After all, the Bible says there is a time to dance (**Eccl. 3:4**).
- C. Not only that, there is no passage that says, "Thou shalt not dance."
- D. But what kinds of dancing do we find in the Bible?
 - i. There were dances of religious devotion (**Exod. 15:20**).
 - ii. There were dances of joy and celebration (**Judg. 11:34**).
 - iii. There were also dances of idolatrous worship (**Exod. 32:19-25**).

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- iv. And there were even sensual dances (**Mark. 6:21-28**).
- E. Which of these do you think brought God glory?
- F. Which of these do you think characterize the kind of dancing that is engaged in at many school dances, night clubs, and parties today?
- G. You see, the real issue around dancing is a question of spiritual discernment.
- H. The New Testament condemns sensuality as a work of the flesh (**Gal. 5:19**).
 - i. Other English translations say lasciviousness or lewdness.
 - ii. Something is considered sensual, lascivious, or lewd if it arouses sexual desire or it indicates sexual interest.
- I. Much of the dancing that goes on at these school dances and clubs is the kind that arouses sexual desires.
- J. This is something people in the world readily admit but sadly some of us can't or won't.
- K. It is this lustful intent that is the real issue.
- L. Sensuality is something that can only find its proper expression and fulfillment in marriage (**Heb. 13:4**).
- M. Instead of engaging in sensuality, God calls us to sexual purity in our hearts and in our actions (**Matt. 5:27-30; 1 Thess. 4:3-8; 1 Cor. 6:13, 19-20**).
- N. Since God desires holiness and sexual purity, every Christian should be concerned about anything that would jeopardize that for ourselves or others (**1 Pet. 1:14-16**).

III. WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- A. How are we going to decide what we should do about dancing?
 - i. Is it going to be based on what our parents/brethren think?
 - ii. Is it going to be based on what our peers or culture think?
 - iii. Is it going to be based on what God says in His word?
- B. Those of us that are older need to help our young people reason things out.
- C. We need to talk about Biblical principles and ask some serious questions like:
 - i. Will dancing please God and show my love for Him and others (**Matt. 22:37, 39; 2 Cor. 5:9; John 14:15**)?
 - ii. Will dancing help me grow in faith and holiness (**1 Pet. 1:14-16**)?
 - iii. Will dancing help me draw others to Christ (**Matt. 5:13-16**)?
- D. We need to promote, provide, and show our young people there are alternatives to ungodly behavior (**Phil. 4:8**).
- E. We need to show them how to live in a way that reflects well on the Lord, even when that brings us shame and suffering from the world (**Matt. 10:24-25; 1 Pet. 4:1-5**).

CONCLUSION

1. Dancing is just one of the many moral issues that our young people must confront.
2. May God help all of us to help one another learn to use His word to guide us in distinguishing good and evil so that we can be holy and be lights in this world (**Heb. 5:14; Rom. 13:14**).