

I usually only send out the articles that we run in our newspaper column that I have written. However, the following article, written by my friend Ronny E. Hinds, is both timely and excellent, and I wanted it to receive a broader reading.

Heath

### **The Danger of Dancing**

by Ronny E. Hinds

Many years ago in a conversation about dancing, I said, "No married man can tell me he doesn't understand what is wrong with dancing."

Some years after that, I purchased a tract about dancing with the title, "Dancing is Sex Bait." Its contents continued to confirm my thoughts about dancing.

Recently I was reminded of those two incidences as I watched TV. In-between the program I was watching a teaser of an up-coming program came on. It involved some kind of dance competition. The teaser was overtly sexual in content with scantily clad women displaying themselves with lewd and provocative body movements.

I mention these things because some Christians find it difficult to admit that the real attraction of dancing is its appeal to our sexual desires. You can deny it if you want to, but in your heart of hearts you know this is true. You might as well deny you have a nose on your face!!

There is a famous Ann Landers newspaper column in which she was asked how close should a fellow hold a woman while dancing? Landers' answer is a classic: "Hold her close enough so you'll know she's a girl, but not so close that you have trouble remembering she's a lady." Think about that!!

I understand why people, especially young people, want to dance. It looks like and is fun. But fun is often the package that sin is wrapped in. James 1:14-15 describes sin's process as being *"drawn away by...desires and enticed"* which when *"conceived, it gives birth to sin..."* Verse 16 then says, *"Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren."* Being ever alert to sin's trickery is a necessity.

Fathers, mothers, young people, all of us, we need to heed Scripture's warning about deception. Dancing is not a passive, little, innocent activity. Parents who encourage and allow their children to become involved in dancing, even though they are too young to understand the sexual danger of dancing, are playing with dynamite. If you sow the seeds you are going to reap the fruit.

"The Prom" soon comes as our little ones grow up and since everyone is going, well, you know the rest of it. And, what are Proms noted for? Not just dancing, but also the after-hours of booze, drugs and lost virginities!!! This should not surprise us given the fact that dancing provides an occasion for the loosening of inhibitions which becomes a prelude to increasingly coarse, lewd behavior.

Consider this report from 2004. "A few weeks ago, according to the Associated Press, officials at Oregon's Bend High School shut down a school dance after the bumping and grinding (intense sexual hip rubbing) got so out of hand that one teacher described it as 'sex with your clothes on.'"

I am not making this stuff up; this is what dancing is really about. Let's stop burying our heads in the

sand. Let's face it!!!

But, but, but, someone sputters, "There's dancing in the Bible." Yes, there is, but you need to study it carefully before you think it authorizes dancing as we're talking about it. Some of it is merely expressions of joy and happiness, a celebration of victory of some sort. Perhaps, like when we see fans running and jumping on the football field after a victory (Exo 15:20-21; 1 Sam 18:6-7). Psalm 149:3 and 150:4 speak of dancing in connection with worshipping God. Is the Prom about worshipping God????

The Bible also makes us aware of dancing's danger. Two cases come to mind. One is the events around the golden calf at Mt. Sinai (Exo 32:1-19), and the other is Herodias' daughter dancing before Herod (Matt 14:6). Both cases suggest the lurid, sexual appeal of dancing.

But note and think! None of these cases illustrate male/female dancing like we are discussing. Don't ignore this. Couples' dancing was unknown until the 15<sup>th</sup> century and then only the touching of hands.

Suggestion: Get involved with Galatians 5:19-21 *before* you get involved with dancing. Note the words "*uncleanness, lewdness*" and "*revelries*"; words that accurately describe dancing – "indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of male and female" (Thayer's Lexicon 79).

Finally, let's stop just asking what's wrong with dancing and start asking what's right about it (try to biblically defend it), and I believe you will understand why dancing is a sin.

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