

THE WORLD'S BIBLE #20

By Keith Greer

DANCING. Part 2

Not many years ago I preached a lesson on this subject at another congregation. Following my sermon, one of the elders took issue with my lesson. "It is narrow minded preachers like yourself that give our kids restrictions God never placed upon them , and it discourages them from being Christians ."

All that believe in God's holy and divine word freely admit that lust is a still a sin. The question we must ask ourselves is simple. Does dancing in its modern forms produce lust or lasciviousness?

There are two arguments that are the most widely used among some Christians to justify dancing,

(1) "I can dance without having evil thoughts. "

(2) "The Bible doesn't say 'Thou shalt not.'"

A movie entitled "Dirty Dancing" (very fittingly named) was extremely popular among young people in recent years, and in one of the most controversial episodes of ABC's "The Home Show", a guest gave vivid demonstrations of how she travels the country teaching students on college campuses how to "dirty dance" as a means of learning to "control" themselves - in order to prevent "date rape" on college campuses. Sound crazy?

Although her theories and demonstration offended many viewers, as Christians, we need to examine our attitude about this activity called "dancing."

Even if we think that we can dance "without having evil thoughts" do we not have a responsibility for how our actions affect others? Many argue that they are not responsible for what others think or do, but the apostle Paul told the Romans to let "... ,let no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way," (Romans 14 :13) He also told them that "...every one of us shall give account of himself to God." (Romans 14 :12)

I do not know any Christians that would advocate allowing their children to use drugs - and the Bible doesn't say "thou shalt not ." What the Bible does say is that we are to "abstain from all appearance of evil." (1 Thessalonians 5:22) and to keep ourselves "...unspotted from the world." (James 1:27)

Unfortunately, many parents, even among Christians , are being taken in by school dances, "the proms", and other such activities, Parents explain that since these functions are "supervised," things don't get out of hand, but how do you supervise someone's mind? We need to teach our children by "'word and deed" to "love not the world, neither the things that are in the world ...For all that is in the world the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." (1 John 2:15-16)

One of the hardest things I had to give up when deciding to “get serious” about being a Christian was dancing. It was a great way to meet girls, I enjoyed it and I was very good at it. I even won a couple of trophies. Yet, the atmosphere of the places I danced, the drinking that most all the time was there, and the close proximity of the male and female rubbing their bodies together, or making very suggestive movements of the body, was a sure recipe for spiritual destruction! Take a pulse of the one who says “they have no evil or lustful thought.” It’s the appeal dancing! ***