**Are We At Liberty To Dance?**

**Reading - Galatians 5:16-26**

Can we conclude that ALL dancing is sinful? Simply defined dancing is: **To move rhythmically usually to music, using prescribed or improvised steps and gestures. To leap or skip about excitedly.**

For dancing to be right or wrong we need to make 3 Basic Considerations:

1. WHERE the dancing is taking place.

2. WHY the dancing is taking place.

3. HOW the dancing is performed.

**some biblical references**

Dancing as an expression of joy: ***(2 Samuel 6:12-16) So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness. {13} And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep. {14} Then David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod. {15} So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet. {16} Now as the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul’s daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.***

***(Psalms 149:3-4) Let them praise His name with the dance; Let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp. {4} For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation.***

***(Ecclesiastes 3:4) A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance;***

***(Luke 15:25) “Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing.***

But then again: ***(Exodus 32:19 &25) So it was, as soon as he came near the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing. So Moses’ anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain.... {25} Now when Moses saw that the people were unrestrained (for Aaron had not restrained them, to their shame among their enemies),***

The daughter of Herodias danced in Mark 6:22

***(Galatians 5:16-21) I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. {17} For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh.... {19} Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, {20} idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissension, heresies, {21} envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.***

***(1 Corinthians 15:33) Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”***

**but I just love to dance! [Social dancing]**

***(1 Thessalonians 5:22) Abstain from every form of evil.***

***(Matthew 5:16) "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.***

***(1 Corinthians 10:32) Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God,***

***(1 John 2:15-16)*** ***Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. {16} For all that is in the world; the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; is not of the Father but is of the world.***

***(Hebrews 10:25) not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.***

**flee youthful lusts [2 timothy 2:22]**

Well, what’s wrong with having chaperoned dances for our children to attend? ***(Job 21:11-14) They send forth their little ones like a flock, And their children dance. {12} They sing to the tambourine and harp, And rejoice to the sound of the flute. {13} They spend their days in wealth, And in a moment go down to the grave. {14} Yet they say to God, 'Depart from us, For we do not desire the knowledge of Your ways.***

Much of the clothing that is worn to these dances could hardly be worn to church services. Why does it make it all right to wear them elsewhere in public?

**“but chaperoned dances have eliminated all that stuff”**

Perform the “experiment”

no amount of supervisors, police or teachers can chaperone affections and lust! ***(Matthew 5:28) "But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.***

***(1 Peter 4:16) Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed***