

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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The Christian Thinking Through the Prom

Jerry Fite

The time is here when teenagers are making a decision whether to go to the senior prom or not. This is the social occasion of the year, when all dress up in formal attire. Pictures are made, fond remembrances are cherished, and prophetic peers into the future are sought. And yes, dancing occurs. The Christian does not blindly accept current social mores. He or she thinks through the situation, seeking to comply with the mind of Christ.

A Christian is one who has *“...crucified the flesh with the lusts and passions thereof”* (Galatians 5:24). Belonging to Christ demands a definite decision to walk after the Spirit and not the flesh. One must choose between the two instead of combining a little of both because *“these are contrary the one to the other”* (Galatians 5:17). The Christian must produce the fruit of the Spirit and avoid the works of the flesh.

One work of the flesh is *“lasciviousness”* (Galatians 5:19). The Greek word translated lasciviousness is ASELGEIA, and characterizes a mind *“absent of re-*

straint” and given to *“wantonness”* and *“unbridled lust”*. One with this mind is *“past feeling”*, for the things of purity and decency, but only cares for satisfying one’s own lust (*cf. Eph. 4:19*).

While “dancing” is not specifically condemned in the New Testament, the Christian is sensitive to not indulge in activities that characterize the works of the flesh. The Greek lexicographer, Joseph Thayer connects “dancing” with “lasciviousness” by illustrating what lasciviousness is. Thayer says it includes *“wanton acts or manners as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females, etc.”* The Christian knows dancing involves the suggestive movements of the body, in close contact with one of the opposite sex. He or she will not participate, refusing to promote the lasciviousness mind.

The Christian understands he or she is a bondservant of Christ and His righteousness. This demands presenting the body in a proper way. *“...neither present your members unto sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves unto God, as alive*

from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God” (Romans 6:13). Allowing one’s body to be handled by another on the dance floor in an intimate fashion, or allowing one’s body to be observed as it moves in sexually suggestive ways promotes lusts of the flesh in another, not righteousness.

The Christian never wants to embolden others to sin by his or her example. In Corinth you may have been a Christian knowing the idol is nothing, but *“...if a man see thee who hast knowledge sitting at meat in an idol’s temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be emboldened to eat things sacrificed to idols?”* (I Corinthians 8:10). To embolden another to participate in sin due to one’s unwise presence at a place is not how the Christian lives.

Honestly assessing the nature of dancing, reflecting on one’s body as an instrument of righteousness, and respecting the impact of one’s example should cause the right thinking Christian to forgo the dance at the promenade. What think ye?