

# WOULD JESUS ATTEND THE PROM?

The dictionary defines a prom as “a formal dance given by a high school or college class.” Dancing is defined as “to perform a rhythmic...succession of bodily movements usually to music, to move quickly up and down or about.”

What does the Bible say? Does it allow or condemn dancing? It condemns it as sinful, not innocent.

**Lasciviousness** is the Bible word which condemns dancing as sensual and sinful. It is defined as: “**unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, wantonness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females**” (Thayer, p.79). Dancing certainly involves “indecent bodily movements” and the “unchaste handling of males and females.” That is its design and appeal.

Arthur Murray, a noted dancing instructor is quoted as saying: “The difference between wrestling and dancing is that, in wrestling, some holds are barred!” A former owner of a large dance hall said, “You can picture the effect on a boy or girl...at one of these dances which calls for close abdominal contact and frequently brings the cheeks together and entwines the limbs. There is...but one reason for its popularity. That reason is sex appeal.”

Dancing involves activities that excite lust, passion and eroticism. Jesus said, “*whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart*” (Matt. 5:28). “*Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then*

*when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death*” (James 1:14-15).

Any activity that promotes lustful or sensual thoughts and actions is sinful. Dancing does that. John the Baptist was beheaded because of a rash vow made by Herod whose passion was aroused by watching a dancing young maiden (Mark 6:16-29). Dancing is not innocent!

Lasciviousness and wantonness are condemned in Mark 7:22, 2 Cor. 12:21, Gal. 5:19-21, Eph. 4:19, 1 Peter 4:3, Jude 1:4, Rom. 13:13, 2 Peter 2:7,18. Those who knowingly and purposefully involve themselves in lasciviousness have no hope of heaven unless they repent and stop the activity. The Lord says, “*...they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God*” (Gal. 5:21).

The question is asked, “is it alright to go to a dance if I don’t dance?” The answer is still NO. Is it alright to go to bars as long as you don’t drink? No! Our influence and example must be kept upright and pure. We are to be an example before others (1 Tim. 4:12; consider Eph. 5:3-5).

Would you consider praying with your dance partner (in front of everyone when you step out on the dance floor) that both your minds would be kept pure? I don’t think so! Then why put yourself in that compromising situation?

By the way, would you expect to see Jesus there? Would you expect to see him out on the dance floor? If not, then why are you there?

—Garland M. Robinson