

Going to the Dance?

Answer These Questions First

by Bryan Gibson

1. Do you believe that something has to be explicitly condemned (called by name) in the New Testament for it to be wrong?
2. Will going to this dance help or hurt you in your pursuit of holiness? (Hebrews 12:14). Remember, the standard of holiness is the Lord Himself (1 Peter 1:15-16).
3. “Keep yourself pure” (1 Timothy 5:22). Can you go to this dance and still obey this commandment? Thoughts, words, and actions—will you be able to keep them all pure?
4. Is it possible that you could lust after another person, and if you do, would that be wrong? (Matthew 5:28).
5. “Flee...youthful lusts” (2 Timothy 2:22). Is this a good way to flee youthful lusts, by going to a dance?
6. “Make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts” (Romans 13:14). What do you think—does dancing provide an opportunity for the flesh to fulfill its lusts? It doesn’t exactly deprive the flesh—on that much I’m sure we can agree.
7. “Those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24). Will going to this dance keep these desires buried or bring them back to life?
8. “Lasciviousness” (KJV) or “licentiousness” (NKJV) is listed in Galatians 5:19 as “a work of the flesh.” Here are some phrases included in the definition of this word: “absence of restraint, indecency, wanton acts or manners, such as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females” (Vine and Thayer). Now, think about the dance—the environment, the language, the clothing, the actual dancing—will all of this promote or reduce the opportunities for lasciviousness?
9. “Resist the devil” (James 4:7). Is this your idea of resisting the devil—going to a dance?
10. “Do not give the devil an opportunity” (Ephesians 4:27). Will going to this dance give or deprive the devil an opportunity?
11. How does this sound to you? “Put on ~~the whole armor of God~~ your homecoming (or prom) dress, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Ephesians 6:11, revised).
12. Could your actions on the dance floor possibly become a stumbling block to others? Is it possible you could cause someone else to lust? Here’s what Jesus said about someone who causes another to sin: “It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea” (Matthew 18:6-7).
13. “Be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12). Can you go to this dance and still be this kind of example?

14. “You are the salt of the earth...the light of the world” (Matthew 5:13-14). Will going to this dance help or harm your influence?
15. Do you remember the story about Joseph and Potiphar’s wife? When she made sexual advances toward him, he refused and even ran away from her (Genesis 39:7-12). Would it have been okay for him to say, “I can’t do that, but why don’t we dance together?”
16. Would David have maintained his purity if he had danced with Bathsheba instead of going to bed with her? (2 Samuel 11:1-4).
17. Imagine a room full of boys and girls doing what they typically do on the dance floor, without any music. Does that in any way change the way you view a dance?
18. Are you absolutely convinced that this is the right thing to do? Do you have any doubts at all? (Romans 14:23). Parents, what about you? Feel confident enough to let your children go?
19. If you were motivated solely by a desire to please God (2 Corinthians 5:9)—not yourself or anyone else—would you still go to this dance?
20. If Jesus comes again while you’re at this dance, will you be confident, or will you be ashamed? “...little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming (1 John 2:28).