



FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES FOR CHRISTIANS

- Not conformed, transformed – **Romans 12:1-2**
- Mind set on things above – **Colossians 3:1-4, 17**
- Do not provide for the flesh – **Romans 13:14**
- Provide for honorable things – **2 Corinthians 8:21**
- Be a godly influence – **1 Peter 2:11-12**
- Do not seek worldly acceptance – **1 Peter 4:4-6**
- Take heed how you hear, seek truth, not justification for desires –
Luke 8:18; 10:29



DANCING IN THE BIBLE

“Dancing...is scarcely ever mentioned in the Bible as a social amusement.”

“Of the social dancing of couples in the modern fashion there is no trace.”

(Smith, William Taylor, *ISBE*, E-text version Copyright 2002,
HeavenWord, Inc.)



DANCING IN THE BIBLE

“In summary, the dance of the Jewish people was similar to what we today call the folk dance. It was performed by both males and females, though apparently not in mixed groups.”

(McCoy, Glenn. “Dancing.” *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, Revised and Expanded, 385)



DANCING IN THE BIBLE

“The Hebrew people developed their own type of dancing, associated in the main with worship. Basically, it was more like modern religious shouting by individuals, or processions of exuberant groups...the sexes never intermingled in it, except where pagan influences had crept in.”

(J.D.F. “Dancing.” *Zondervan’s Pictorial Bible Dictionary*, 196)



DANCING IN THE BIBLE

meḥôlâ – dance in a ring (HALOT);

mâḥôl – a (round) dance (STRONG)

“The basic Hebrew term translated ‘dance’ means to twist or to whirl about in circular motions.”

(McCoy, Glenn. “Dancing.” *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, Revised and Expanded, 384)



DANCING IN THE BIBLE

meḥôlâ – dance in a ring (HALOT);
mâḥôl – a (round) dance (STRONG)

“The Hebrew employs *ḥûl* and its derivatives *māḥôl* and *meḥôlâ*...to denote turning, twisting, whirling; hence the general interpretation of round dances is given to these instances.”

(Johnston, E.B. *ISBE 4 Volumes, 2nd ed.*, e-book, Eerdmans Publishing Company)

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DANCING IN THE BIBLE

meḥôlâ – dance in a ring (HALOT);

mâḥôl – a (round) dance (STRONG)

Dance in Rejoicing

- **Judges 11:34** (*meḥôlâ*); **1 Samuel 18:6-7** (*meḥôlâ*); **Psalms 30:11** (*mâḥôl*); **Lamentations 5:15** (*mâḥôl*)
- **Luke 15:25** (*choros*) – a ring, i.e. round dance (STRONG); a band (of dancers and singers), circular dance, a dance, dancing (THAYER)



DANCING IN THE BIBLE

meḥôlâ – dance in a ring (HALOT);

mâḥôl – a (round) dance (STRONG)

Dance in Worship (OT)

- Exodus 15:20-21 (*meḥôlâ*)
- 2 Samuel 6:14-16 (*kârar*)
 - *kârar* – “to whirl, dance” (Brown-Driver-Briggs)
- Psalm 149:3; 150:4 (*mâḥôl*)



DANCING IN THE BIBLE

meḥôlâ – dance in a ring (HALOT);

mâḥôl – a (round) dance (STRONG)

Dance to Incite Lust

- Exodus 32:6, 19-21 (*meḥôlâ*)
(cf. 1 Corinthians 10:6-8)
- Mark 6:21-24 (*orcheomai* – to dance, STRONG)



DANCING IN THE BIBLE

“The most popular dance entertainment in the first centuries A.D. was the *pantomimus*, a solo enactment of a popular story theme in stylized mimicry, often with dramatic and sensual movements and postures. It has been suggested that Salome’s dance for Herod’s birthday guests was in this tradition.”

(Johnston, E.B. *ISBE 4 Volumes, 2nd ed.*, e-book, Eerdmans Publishing Company)



VIOLATIONS OF BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

Bible Condemnation of Revelry

- **Romans 13:13; Galatians 5:21; 1 Peter 4:3**
- **Revelry** – *kōmos* – a carousal (as if letting loose) (STRONG)
 - “a nocturnal and riotous procession of half drunken and frolicsome fellows...generally of feasts and drinking parties that are protracted till late at night and indulge in revelry” (THAYER)



VIOLATIONS OF BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

Bible Condemnation of Revelry

- **Romans 13:13; Galatians 5:21; 1 Peter 4:3**
- **Revelry** – *kōmos* – a carousal (as if letting loose) (STRONG)
 - “In the cities such entertainments grew into carouses, in which the party of revellers paraded the streets with torches, singing, dancing, and all kinds of frolics.”

(Vincent, M.R. *Word Studies in the New Testament*)



VIOLATIONS OF BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

Bible Condemnation of Lewdness and Lust

- 1 Peter 4:3; Galatians 5:19; 2 Corinthians 12:22; Romans 13:13
- **Lust** – *epithymia* – a desire for someth. forbidden or simply inordinate, craving, lust (BDAG)
- **Lewdness** – *aselgeia* – wanton (acts or) manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females, etc.
(THAYER)



VIOLATIONS OF BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

Bible Condemnation of Lewdness and Lust

- 1 Peter 4:3; Galatians 5:19; 2 Corinthians 12:22; Romans 13:13
- Progression: Lust → Lewdness → Fornication



LEWDNESS AND LUST IN DANCING

“Courtship dances, for example, allow the dancers to display their vigour and attractiveness and to engage in socially accepted physical contact between the sexes. (The waltz, a relatively modern example of the courtship dance, was banned at certain times because its flagrant contact between the dancers was considered indecent.)”

(Mackrell, Judith R.. "dance". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 11 Nov. 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/art/dance>. Accessed 8 March 2023.)



LEWDNESS AND LUST IN DANCING

“Dance is sex with clothes on... Dancing is a way to show a partner a link to something ancestral; carnal, even. Through this incendiary and titillating experience -- showing our rhythm and ability to dance -- we provoke those who watch us...Dancing hides inhibitions way better than alcohol... In dance, we make eye contact, we touch, and we use sound to manipulate our bodies and emotions. This same behavior can be transferred to the bedroom with great ease.”

(Janeskela, Jacklyn. “How dancing Makes You A Better Lover”. *Thrillist*, 26 April 2016, <https://www.thrillist.com/sex-dating/nation/7-ways-dancing-makes-you-better-in-bed>. Accessed 8 March 2023.)

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LEWDNESS AND LUST IN DANCING

“It's no surprise that nightclubs are dark places. They foster feelings of lust, sex, and sometimes when we dance there, we can go through the stages of fancying, loving, fumbling foreplay, intercourse...just by making eye contact, and holding it, with someone on the other side of the dance floor.”

(Lovatt, Peter. “Sex and Dancing”. *Psychology Today*, 12 March 2010, <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/dance-psychology/201003/sex-and-dancing>. Accessed 8 March 2023)

LEWDNESS AND LUST IN DANCING

Professor Louis J. Guyon, owner and operator of “Paradise Ballrooms”: "We know that sex is the strongest impulse planted in the human race. You can just picture the effect on a boy or girl of 18 or 20, when this hunger is keenest, when knowledge and experience are lacking in the formation of judgment, of one of these dances which calls for close bodily contact and frequently brings the cheeks together and entwine the limbs. Yet, we find thousands of boys and girls dancing in this very way who do not realize they are doing anything out of the way, and whose fool parents look on complacently..."

LEWDNESS AND LUST IN DANCING

Professor Louis J. Guyon, owner and operator of “Paradise Ballrooms”: “...When you are told that youth of both sexes can...survive this experience without mental, moral and physical pollution, you know the teller lies...If you can believe youth is the same after this experience as before, then God help your child or your charge, for you are not mentally fit for your responsibility...If you do not believe I have correctly described the modern dances and their effect, you either have not seen them performed or you are willfully blind to their true character.”



LEWDNESS AND LUST IN DANCING

“[Dancing is] The vertical expression of a horizontal desire legalized by music.”

(George Bernard Shaw, 1856-1950, Irish playwright and socialist)



VIOLATIONS OF BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

The Bible Requirement of Sobriety and Holiness – 1 Peter 1:13-16

**The Bible Requirement to Abstain from Every Form of Evil – 1 Thessalonians 5:22;
2 Timothy 2:22**

**The Bible Requirement to Be Salt and Light –
Matthew 5:13-16; 2 Corinthians 8:20-21**



ATTEMPTS TO JUSTIFY DANCING

- “I can dance without lusting.”
(cf. 1 Corinthians 10:12; Romans 13:8, 10, 14)
- “It’s socially accepted. Nobody else has a problem with it.” (cf. Romans 12:2; 1 Peter 4:4)
- “I am only attending the dance. I don’t intend to do any dancing myself.” (cf. 2 Corinthians 8:21)
- “I only go to chaperoned dances.”



COMMON ACCOMPANIMENT OF DANCING

- Drinking (1 Peter 4:3)
- Profane Music (Ephesians 5:3-5)
- Immodesty (1 Timothy 2:9-10)
- Lust (Matthew 5:27-30)
- Sexual Immorality (Hebrews 13:4)

*“You will know them by their fruits...”
(Matthew 7:16)*



