



Whose Partner?

By Calvin Burrell

Honest young people have been asking the question, "What about dancing?" They want to know what is wrong with keeping time with music the way some do; after all, the Bible tells of some righteous folk dancing, doesn't it?

Yes, the Bible does mention that David danced before the Lord. His dance was a natural, unplanned response of great joy, praise, and thanksgiving to God for God's great blessings to the people of Israel. He danced alone.

On at least two occasions in the scripture, dancing is mentioned with definite evils accompanying it: (1) the Israelites danced in worship of the golden calf that Aaron had made, and (2) it was the dancing of Herodias' daughter that pleased the evil king Herod, and led to the beheading of John the Baptist.

To prove the statement, "Dancing is sin," from the scriptures would be a difficult, perhaps impossible, thing to do: it is not the intention of this writer to attempt it. Let no one, however, jump from the foregoing statement to a conclusion that all dancing, therefore, is proper. We realize that some people, perhaps because of their own lusts or failure to prayerfully consider, will so conclude.

I believe that the modern dance in its many forms and styles is *not* an acceptable activity for the people of God on the following accounts:

Strike one: Immorality

Strike two: Drinking

Strike three: Poor associations

1. If there ever *was* a sense of decency about the dances of the world, it seems to have vanished in the past 10 years. The old pitfall of dancing, too much physical intimacy (hugging, petting, etc.), has been surpassed by other dangers. Now even the tamer dances are marked with suggestive moves designed to create lust

in the participants. I believe it to be extremely difficult for any red-blooded American boy to participate in, or even watch, some of the present-day dances without having his mind dragged dangerously near the gutter level. That's a temptation most of us fellows can do without.

You may say that you need poise, grace, and charm that are gained from dancing. You pay for your poise, grace, and charm with your innocence, natural character, and reputation; that's a fool's bargain for anyone! And how many well-meaning girls have fallen victim to an innocent dance-floor relationship—to lose their innocence at a young age—when the parents were just helping them "fit in" with their group?

I believe the dance to be built largely on improper sex! Let me prove what I say: If a law were passed that only men could dance with men, and only women could dance with women, most dancing would suddenly cease.

2. The association that dancing has with alcoholic beverages is too strong to ignore. If you could prohibit all strong drink from a dancing hall and its premises, the place would probably dry up and blow away within a week!

Too often has "one fellow with a bottle" appeared on the scene at a "well-planned" dance; too often has some guy "just happened to bring some beer," a few drinks of which will break down the well-intentioned young person's resistance, making him even more gullible to the nonsense of the dance floor and the further evils which follow. Too often are the words "dance" and "drink" related to the same sad experience.

3. A good test for any questionable activity would be, "What kind of people does it make you a part of?" Are those who frequent places of dance the brand of people we want to be? What about their conversation, manner of dress, etc.? Do I feel cleaner of mind and of body after having been to a dance? How many "dancers" ever even profess to know and serve the God of heaven? Is this the group of people or the activity I would like to be found with when Jesus comes?

Immorality—one strike!

Drinking—two strikes!

Poor associations—three strikes!

The Bible says in James 4:4: "Whosoever therefore, will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God!"

Dancing, you're out—out of my life for keeps.

Young folks, when it comes to dancing, whose partner will you be?