

## **May I Have This Dance?**

By Steve Higginbotham

With the Prom just around the corner many young people, as well as their parents, are asking the question of whether or not dancing is an activity in which they or their children ought to engage. Because there are many honest people who do not want to deliberately sin, I think it is imperative that we openly define sin, draw lines and expose activities that are at best questionable so that responsible decisions can be made.

In answer to the question, "Is dancing wrong?" I must first answer "No." Dancing is not an intrinsic evil. There is no sin in moving one's feet to the rhythm of music. Not all dancing involves indecent dress, unchaste contact or illicit movement. In fact, the Bible records instances when righteous men danced as an expression of their joy (1 Chronicles 15:25-29; Luke 15:11-32).

However, dancing that calls for close bodily contact between unmarried males and females is wrong. Dancing that involves indecent and suggestive bodily movements is wrong. And dancing that involves impure handling of a dance partner is wrong. The kind of dancing that God's Word condemns is the kind of dancing that stirs one to have impure thoughts and act in impure ways. That is the problem with most of the dancing that takes place today. Its appeal is sex. Now, there is nothing wrong with sexual attraction. In fact, sexual attraction is a perfectly healthy matter that God created and put within us. However, that attraction must be kept within proper bounds. It should not be tantalized or it will very likely get out of hand. Unmarried people who have no legitimate means to fulfill their sexual desires need to be extremely careful to avoid any situation that could feed or flame such desires.

To be perfectly honest, I fear for those who go to a dance, spend all night with their date, come home the next morning (which happens to be the Lord's day), and find themselves too exhausted, because of their carousing, to go to worship or to truly worship in spirit the one who shed his blood for their redemption. Do we really think that such actions will simply be pardoned or excused because, after all, "It's the Prom"?

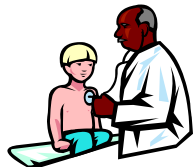
In years past, there was hardly any Christian who would openly defend dancing. The preachers of times past taught that it was sinful, and the congregations concurred with their sound doctrine. So, what has happened? Are things different today? Has dancing cleaned up its act? Were the preachers of yesterday all wrong about dancing? Have God's moral standards changed some over the years?

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Continue to remember in prayer:

# Sick

Margaret Kratz, Miriam Majors, Betty & Walter Jenkins, Jim Dorsett, Martha Keith, Al Furrow, Marguerite Charles, Jo Musgrove, Evelyn Scott, Ruth Stanton, Willard Campbell, WJ Wood, EV Wimmer, Jo Hartman, Lynn Anderson, Jackie Dixon, Collin Gregory, WJ Wood, Kathleen Soliday,



- John Shannon had test run last week.
- Susan Mountcastle had out patient surgery last week.
- Erica Register, friend of the Cooks, will have a bone marrow transplant this month.
- Leslie Jearls, Mitch's grandfather is in Radford Hospital for pneumonia and low blood pressure.

## Happy Birthday this week to:

Garrett Durham—4/4  
 Norma Biller—4/5  
 Collin Gregory—4/7  
 Tom Richardson—4/8  
 Emily Gray—4/11



## Happy Anniversary this week to:

Joe & Amanda Brown—4/9



**APRIL ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS:** Kashi Go Lean Cereal, Cheerios, non microwave popcorn. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



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Well, dancing certainly has not become any more moral over the years. If anything, the modern dance is more sensuous today than it ever was. Furthermore, preachers of the past were correct in preaching and warning against dancing (Galatians 5:19-21). And of course, God's moral law has not changed (Matthew 24:35). What then has changed? What has changed are the attitudes and respect (or lack of) God's people have for his will. Some apparently seem to be more willing to justify their "pet" sins than they are willing to justify God's high moral standard.

Young people, keep the commitment that you made to the Lord. Guard your heart and mind from the "fleshly lusts that war against your soul" (1 Peter 2:11). And parents, help your young son or daughter in making decisions that may affect his or her eternal destiny. Sometimes, because of the tremendous peer pressure they are under, your children need you to say "no" for them. Help them to make Christ-focused decisions that will bring honor God.

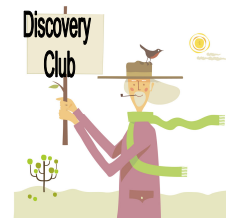
# Teens

## March Events



April 9,10—Making Music Weekend—FHU  
April 18—TBS

The Discovery Club's next meeting is scheduled for April 11 at 4:30 in the large class-



room. \_\_\_\_\_

TEAMS



## Upcoming Events:

Team 3 (Valentine) will be having a Spring Get Together at Tom & Melissa Rogers home on April 30. More details to follow!

# WOW

The next regular meeting will be on April 13 at 10:30. Special guest speaker!

Sunday, April 18, everyone is invited to join the WOW group at the Harbor Inn Restaurant for lunch. Sign up sheet is on the board!

**Congratulations to Claire Gray and Luke Guard.** Claire will be a youth intern this summer working with girls at West Seventh Church of Christ in Columbia TN. Luke has been named as a part time youth minister at the Broad Street Church of Christ in Lexington, TN until he graduates in May of 2011.



# First 100 Days

## “When I Make Up My Jewels”

### Apr. 4 (Romans 14)

- Read Romans 14 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 14
  - Christian freedom and optional matters
  - Memorize Rom. 14:12
- Write a note or card this week
- \*Increase your contribution by \$1 today

### Apr. 5 (Romans 15)

- Read Romans 15 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 15
  - Mutual concern (1-14)
  - Paul's plans for the future (15-33)
  - Memorize Rom. 15:4

### Apr. 6 (Romans 16)

- Read Romans 16 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 16
  - Greetings to various people (1-16)
  - Dealing with apostasy (17-20)
  - Paul's co-workers and closing words (21-27)
  - Memorize Rom. 16:17

### Apr. 7 (Romans 1)

- Read Romans 1 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 1
  - Gentile world under sin (before the cross)
  - Memorize Rom. 1:16

### Apr. 8 (Romans 2)

- Read Romans 2 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 2
  - Jewish world under sin (before the cross)
  - Memorize Rom. 2:11

### Apr. 9 (Romans 3)

- Read Romans 3 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 3
  - Universality of sin
  - Memorize Rom. 3:23

### Apr. 10 (Romans 4)

- Read Romans 4 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 4
  - Universality of sin
  - Memorize Rom. 3:23

Malachi was the last of God's prophets, a contemporary of Ezra and Nehemiah. He prophesied after the return from Babylonian Captivity and during a time in which worship was not being regarded as it should. Through neglect and indifference the people were failing to serve God properly. Some heeded his warnings and were recognized by God as faithful. It is in regards to this group that God spoke these words through Malachi: "And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him" (Mal. 3:17). It is wonderful to contemplate that day when "I make up my jewels."

Will you be counted among the "jewels" of God when that day comes? The Bible speaks about our actions being called into judgment before the King (Eccl. 12:13, 14; Mt. 16:27; Rom. 2:6-10; II Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:12). Only those who obey the gospel (II Thes. 2:8) and remain faithful in their allegiance will be saved eternally (Rev. 2:10). The mere fact that one's name is on a church role somewhere will not suffice. The idea that because one has attended worship faithfully will not, within itself, allow one to enter heaven (even though faithfulness in attendance is required- Heb. 10:25). Just because one has had a godly spouse, parents, children or associates does not mean he will be acceptable. Each one must stand upon his own record of service to God (II Cor. 5:10).

The song says, "What a day that will be when my Jesus I shall see; when I look upon His face, the One Who saved me by His grace; when He takes me by the hand and leads me through the Promised Land, what a day, glorious day that will be." Indeed there will be no better time for those who give their lives to Him and live for Him. To hear Him say, "Well done" (Mt. 25:21, 23) will make all of life's trials, Satan's devices and earth's obstacles pale into insignificance. Oh! to be counted as one of His! Will you be there when He "makes up His jewels?"

-Eddy