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Dancing

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VF James, Don Carlos

DANCING. CENTER FOR RESTORATION STUDIES
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Prepared by Don Carlos Janes.

"The works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousies, wraths, factions, divisions, parties (heresies), envyings, drunkenness, revellings, and such like." Every item in this list is evil and such as no right-thinking and right-acting person or congregation can practice or uphold, for the writer goes on to say: "Of which I forewarn you (or tell you plainly) even as I did forewarn you, that they who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Gal. 5:19-21.

Komoi (revellings) is defined by Liddell and Scott as "A jovial festivity, with music and dancing; a revel, carousal, merrymaking."

No one can be an example of purity who encourages dancing.—A. B. Lipscomb. Dancing would come under the head of revellings (Gal. 5:21) and is a sin that should be repented of and forsaken —W. T. Kidwill. There are few bigger stumbling-blocks in the church of Christ today than dancing church members. * * The dance has no place in the life of any faithful Christian.—Herald of Christian Liberty. R. A. Torrey is represented as saying dancing is a greater evil to contend against than alcohol.

"It is the greatest sorrow of my life that I have been so long and in such an influential way, connected with an evil which I know to have been the ruin, both of soul and body, to many a bright young life. * * * It is not the whirling, but the liberties the waltz affords, which forms its chief attraction. * * * The position assumed in waltzing * * * tends * * * to develop the lower nature of sexes. It cannot be otherwise."—From the Ball Room to Hell. Faulkner.

"No careful observer can fail to conclude that the modern dances constitute a social ulcer which is a serious menace to morality and a potent factor in the production of crime. That the modern dancing method has been the acknowledged avenue to the moral downfall of large numbers of wives and

daughters who have been led captive by this craze. * * * * As one of our ablest writers once said of the waltz: 'It is a war on physical health; it is a war on man's moral nature; this is the broad avenue through which thousands press into the brothel. The dancing hall is the nursery of the divorce courts, the training ship of prostitution, the graduating school of infamy.' * * * These dances require description and unfortunately they are too familiar to require it. The very pose of the dancers suggests impurity and the various steps and movements are contrived with devilish ingenuity to excite the instincts to action."—Dr. Frank G. Richardson.

"The character of the ancient dance was very different from that of ours. * * * The Hebrews * * * had their sacred dances, which were performed on their solemn anniversaries, and other occasions. * * * The Jewish dance was performed by the sexes separately. * * * There was no evidence from sacred history that the diversion was promiscuously enjoyed, except it might be at the erection of the deified calf."—Popular and Critical Bible Encyclopedia.

"It is immodest. The positions assumed and the liberties taken are such as to bring the blush of shame to the one who has not become accustomed to them, and they would not be allowed under other circumstances. It is not claimed that no one is chaste and modest who dances, but there is an inconsistency between that modesty which ought to characterize the intercourse between the sexes and the dances of modern society. And if you eliminate the objectionable features you have nothing left. The dance could not live if you were to take from it those features which are a menace to purity."—W. M. P.

"Dancing is neither of Christian origin nor respectable. The German waltz, which, perhaps, is the most popular of all dances, was first danced in a bawdy house. * * * It is essentially calculated to suggest licentiousness, and is, at best, debasing in its origin, nature and history. For many years it was confined to dens of vice, without a votary among respectable people. * * * No physiologist will attempt to point out anything in the whole round of dancing.

or in round dancing, that is in any wise calculated to produce or promote gracefulness. * * * It is a fact that will be generally admitted by physicians that the health of a multitude of women has been wrecked by the ballroom.* * * The dress of the ballroom is not infrequently vulgar and often injurious."—Western Recorder.

"The chances are that dancing would soon be almost abandoned if each sex danced alone. It must be, therefore the association or contact of the sexes that makes it so interesting. While dancing has always been more or less of an excuse to hug and be tugged, and modern dances, if the pictures and few parlor examples the writer has seen are true representations, come as near crossing the border line of decency as human nature can well endure. That people come out of such experiences with their moral nature damaged is beyond question to my mind."—John T. Hinds.

"It is not safe for Christians to dance. * * * The general sentiment of the pious is against it; the general sentiment of the unconverted is against it. As religion declines, dancing flourishes. * * * Who ever knew dancing parties and balls to abound in a powerful revival of religion?"—A. D. Smith.

"Dancing, balls and parties * * * lead to forgetfulness of God. They nourish passion and sensual desire. They often lead to the seduction and ruin of the innocent. No child dances into heaven, but many a one dances into hell."—Albert Barnes.

"Dancing was to me an unmixed moral evil. I have it justly in abhorrence for moral injury it did me."—Adam Clarke.

"I can safely say that three-fourths of these (2,500 abandoned) women were led to their downfall through the influence of dancing."—La Floris. "Seven-tenths of the girls received here," said the matron of a home for fallen women, "have fallen through dancing and its influence."

The testimony of the chief of police of New York City is that "seventy-five per cent. of the abandoned girls of that city were ruined by dancing." Another declares that the confessional of the Roman Catholic

Church reveals the fact that ninety-five per cent. of their women who go wrong have lost their purity through the ballroom.—Sel.

Mr. Faulkner, once a dancing master, talked personally with fallen girls, inmates of the house of shame, and found from their frank answers that the direct cause of their degradation was, in one hundred and sixty-three cases out of two hundred, "dancing school and ballrooms."

"If you deem it a safe amusement, come with me for a few evenings, and when you have seen all that I can show you let your judgment tell you whether you can with safety place your pure, beautiful daughter in the dancing academy or ballroom."—Faulkner.

"The dance is in its very nature unclean and cannot be washed."—Grace Greenwood.

"Ye are not of the world" (John 15:19). "Love not the world" (1 John 2:15). "It is good not to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor to do anything whereby thy brother stumbleth." (Rom. 14:21).

"Abstain from every form of evil." (1 Thess. 5:22). "Keep thyself pure." (1 Tim. 5:22). "Walk worthily of the calling wherewith ye were called." (Eph. 4:1). "Let your light shine." (Matt. 5:16). "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." (1 Cor. 10:31).

"For God appointed us not unto wrath, but unto the obtaining of salvation through out Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him." (1 Thess. 5:9, 10).

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