

In **Luke 15:25**, as it relates to Dance in the New Testament we read the following: *"Now the elder son was in the field; and he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing."*

In this passage of Scripture Jesus is teaching the parable of the **Prodigal Son**. And when the younger brother returns home, the older brother arrives and hears music and dancing! The Father is throwing a party in celebration of the safe return of his younger son.

There is still another example in the New Testament of Dance used in a wrong and wicked way. In **Matthew 14:6** we read: *"But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before the, and pleased Herod".*

This verse of Scripture refers to a time when a wicked Mother, took advantage of her intoxicated husband by using her daughter to dance (*in a seductive way*); before her husband. The purpose was the **execution of John the Baptist** (or *Baptizer*). This is a clear example of dance being used in a way that God never intended!

In conclusion it is clear in The Scriptures that God's original plan and purpose for Dance was that we would use it to worship, praise and offer thanks to Him! Indeed it has been perverted by the world, the flesh and the Devil. Satan has successfully polluted God's original design for Dance among Christians and in God's Church. However, let's be absolutely clear on the matter. **THERE IS NOTHING WRONG** with expressing our thanks to God in dance! In private, (*alone or with your spouse*), in public, in worship... Dancing is permitted!

As long as the music we dance to and the lyric of the song we may be dancing to is Christ-centered and Biblically sound we should **DANCE ON!** Remember what The Scriptures say: **"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."** 1st Corinthians 10:31 (KJV) And let's all be careful to remember that we see the outward appearance, but **God looks upon the heart!**

Safe In Christ,
-Pastor Fort

Sources: The Holy Bible; Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of The Bible; Vine's Concise Dictionary of The Bible; Dake's Annotated Reference Bible

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The Gospel
Truth About
DANCING!

GOD!



"The Gospel Truth About Dancing"



DANCING is no small matter among many Christians today. In fact, "To dance or not to dance" in the Church of Jesus Christ has become a major topic of discussion for some believers.

It is for this reason, that we have endeavored to compile this booklet for the Christian who may have some questions, or simply need a little clarification with what The Bible has to say about the matter of dancing.

Our goal is to define dancing. And then, to see whether or not it's appropriate for the Christian in private and in public (including and perhaps with special emphasis on Worship Services in particular).

DANCE DEFINED:

In the King James Version of The Bible the word Dance appears 8 times; the word Dances appears 6 times; the word Danced appears 6 times and the word Dancing appears 7 times;... for a grand total of 27 times.

Of these, there are 23 occurrences in the Old Testament and 4 occurrences in the New Testament- (three in the book of Matthew, and one in the book of Luke).

There are seven different words used to refer to Dance in the Old Testament. The reason for 7 different words in the O.T. is due to the way the word is used (i.e. *dance, dances, dancing, etc.*); the same is true in our English language when we use a variation of one word to express the action of that word in a sentence.) Only one word is used to refer to the four references in the New Testament. The word Dance means: **"To lift up, to leap with regularity of motion." It is the expression of the emotions and passion of the heart- with the body.**

DANCE DISCOVERED:

The original purpose for dance in The Bible. In order to understand how God feels about anything, all we have to do is look at the first time it is mentioned in The Scriptures and see God's response to it. By doing this we can determine the purpose and passion God has for it.

The first time we see Dance in The Scripture is in **Exodus 15:20**. It says: *"And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances."*

The word used for dance in this verse is the word: "**Mechowlah**" or "Mecholah". And it refers to: *"A dance company. Dancing. A round-dance"*. The reason Miriam and the women of Israel are dancing in this verse is because God has delivered the Israelites from evil Pharaoh and the bondage of Egypt. The Israelites have just crossed the Red Sea, the Egyptians who followed them have drowned in **the Red Sea**...and they're expressing their praise and thanks to God Almighty!

Another memorable moment where Dance and God's people are concerned in The Scriptures is found in **2nd Samuel 6:14**. It says: *"And David danced before The LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod."*

This account of dancing in The Scripture is wonderful indeed! In this case, King David is leading a procession, following a military victory over the Philistines- that celebrated the return of the **Ark of the Covenant** to the "City of David". This was a garment worn by priests and Levites, not kings; but David was a type of Christ and wore it with approval from The Lord and wore it to demonstrate his position as a humble servant of The Most High God- while he led the procession into the city. Note that The Scriptures record that David danced *"With all his might"*!

About the rude and wrong response of David's wife Michal who watched the procession let's consider the words of Dr. Finnis Dake at this point. He writes:

"Instead of looking on with criticism and despings in her heart, Michal should have been at the head of women meeting the procession as it came into the city. It was the custom for bands of women to go out with music, singing, and dancing to meet their men on their return home from a victory. On this occasion David acted in what was one time Miriam's place in leading the women's choir." Dr. Dake goes on to write: "She did not make David welcome, but rather despised him in her heart. She thought he had disgraced himself. Her words were bitter and cutting and she received sharpness in return for being so prudish where God and joy in The Lord are concerned. ...Part of her punishment was that she was childless to the day of her death."