

Doctrine of the Dance

1. Some dancing is inappropriate being sensual and erotic in nature leading to inappropriate behavior.
 - *Exodus 32:19 And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.*

2. The seductive dancing of Salome led to the death of John the Baptist.
 - *Matthew 14:6 But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod.*
 - *Mark 6:22 And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee.*

3. Wives for the men of Benjamin were found while dancing.
 - *Judges 21:21 And see, and, behold, if the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance in dances, then come ye out of the vineyards, and catch you every man his wife of the daughters of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin. ...23 And the children of Benjamin did so, and took them wives, according to their number, of them that danced, whom they caught: and they went and returned unto their inheritance, and repaired the cities, and dwelt in them.*

4. Dancing took place in times of military celebration.
 - *1 Samuel 18:6 And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick.*

5. While distributing the spoils of war the Israelites celebrated with eating and drinking and dancing.
 - *1 Samuel 30:16 And when he had brought him down, behold, they were spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking, and dancing, because of all the great spoil that they had taken out of the land of the Philistines, and out of the land of Judah.*

6. David danced before the Lord for joy when the Ark of the Covenant was returned.
 - *2 Samuel 6:14 And David danced before the Lord with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod.*

7. Excessive dancing in celebration of the Lord can bring criticism.

- *2 Samuel 6:16 And as the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.*
- *1 Chronicles 15:29 And it came to pass, as the ark of the covenant of the Lord came to the city of David, that Michal the daughter of Saul looking out at a window saw king David dancing and playing: and she despised him in her heart.*

“David danced before the Lord,
He danced with all his might.
His heart was filled with the holy joy,
And his spirit was so light.

Michal through the window looked
To criticize did start,
She didn't know that David
Had got a dancing heart.

The Holy Ghost will set your feet a dancing
The Holy Ghost will thrill you through and through.
The Holy Ghost will set your feet a dancing
And Set your heart a dancing too.”

8. A merry and jovial life involves dancing.

- *Job 21:11 They send forth their little ones like a flock, and their children dance.*

9. One of the blessings of the Lord is when mourning is turned into dancing.

- *Psalms 30:11 Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness;*
- *Jeremiah 31:13 Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow.*

10. There is a liturgical dance to be enjoyed and experienced.

- *Psalms 149:3 Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp.*

11. In the act of worship the liturgical dance is part of the musical experience that includes instruments. Christ is the Lord of the dance.

- *Psalms 150:4 Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.*

12. There is a time to dance as part of the normal experiences of life.

- *Ecclesiastes 3:4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;*

13. Animals are also noted for acts of dancing.

- *Isaiah 13:21 But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and owls shall dwell there, and satyrs shall dance there.*

Special Note.

Satyr (hairy one). Mentioned in Greek mythology as a creature composed of a man and a goat, the satyrs were supposed to inhabit wild and desolate regions. The Hebrew word is rendered "goat" in Leviticus 4:24) and "devil", i.e., an idol in the form of a goat in Leviticus 17:7 and 2 Chronicles 11:15). When it is said in Isaiah 13:21 "*the satyrs shall dance there,*" the meaning is that the place referred to shall become a desolate waste. Some render the Hebrew word "baboon," a species of which is found in Babylonia.

14. Lack of dancing is associated with the joy of life being removed.

- *Lamentations 5:15 The joy of our heart is ceased; our dance is turned into mourning.*

15. Jesus did not oppose dancing but used it as an illustration of adults acting badly by not being satisfied.

- *Matthew 11:17 And saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented.*

16. The return of the prodigal son home was a cause for celebration which included dancing.

- *Luke 15:25 Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing.*