

## THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS RELATIONSHIP TO MORALS A LOOK AT DRINKING AND DANCING

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. Our lesson today concerns activities that particularly affect our young people as well as adults, because of the way society views them.
- B. Drinking alcoholic beverages is almost as acceptable today as drinking a "Pepsi" or "Coke" during the time I was growing up. (From a Gallup poll as reported on Fox News August 20, 2012 Every day in the United States, more than 4,750 kids under age 16 have their first full drink of alcohol.)
- C. It almost goes without saying that everybody is going to all the school dances and surely the "senior prom". One of our children went against our teaching and without our knowledge, later he repented. Adult members of the church participate in dancing as a form of recreation.

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. DRINKING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ACCEPTABLE

- A. Statistics concerning consumption
  1. Consumption of alcoholic drinks rose in 70's, but declined in 80's, however, a switch from liquor to beer or wines
  2. Wine consumption continues to grow. Sale sparkling wines such as champagne was up to \$1.7 billion in 1984 34% more than 1983 (Time 31 Dec. 1984 p 50)
  3. Percent of adults 18 years of age and over who were current regular drinkers (at least 12 drinks in the past year): 51.5%
  4. Alcohol is legal and is served in most restaurants today
- B. In almost all TV programs, drinking is glamorized and glorified as the thing to do
- C. What about the difference in alcoholic beverages today and in New Testament times?
  1. The Standard Measure of Alcohol In United States: a standard drink is any drink that contains 0.6 ounces of pure alcohol. Generally, is found in: 12-ounces of regular beer or wine cooler. 8-ounces of malt liquor. 5-ounces of wine. 1.5-ounces of 80-proof distilled spirits or liquor (e.g., gin, rum, vodka, whiskey).
  2. Comments by: McGarvey, Fourfold Gospel, p118 "The liquors of this land in the strength of their intoxicating properties differ so widely from the light wines of Palestine that even the most moderate use of them seems immoderate in comparison."
  3. Commentary on John, B. W. Johnson, p 46,47 "Fermented wines, which, however, were unlike our fiery liquors, and contained only a small percent of alcohol. These mixed with two or three parts of water. The laws of Zaleucus, the Locrian, put to death anyone who drank unmixed wine, except as medicine. The fermented wine, at first mild, and then diluted with water, was a drink as used, that had no intoxicating power unless used in enormous quantities...." Acts 2:15

3. Barns Notes on N. T. Rom 14:21, p 316 "...the wines which are now used are different from those which were common among the ancients. That was the pure juice of the grape. That which is now in common use is mingled with alcohol, and with other intoxicating ingredients." (Needham's tract p 3)
  4. All of these quotes show a vast difference in Alcoholic content of today's beverages and those of N. T. Times
- D. Then note the Bible's condemnation of drunkenness
1. Strong drink condemned Prov 20:1
  2. Drunkard shall not inherit kingdom 1Cor 6:9,10
  3. Have no company with brother who is a drunkard 1Cor 5:11
  4. In every instance strong drink is dealt with it is dealt with in a bad light.
- E. Yet in spite of all this evidence members of the church still try to defend social drinking. (add from Christian Church)

#### II. DANCING IS CONSIDERED MORALLY GOOD TODAY

- A. What is involved in dancing that would make it wrong for the Christian to participate in it?
  1. The older cheek-to-cheek style of dancing involves unchaste handling of the opposite sex, and the newer stand-and-shake style involves unchaste viewing of the opposite sex
  2. A teacher of dance explained "first the dances are too easy not to dance; second, they are too sexy not to dance --- aah, the girls really love these dances -- Now they can be a wild as they feel -- on the dance floor they've got no inhibitions" (Saturday Evening Post, 27 Mar 1965) (now Miley Cyrus twerking which simulates a sex act)
  3. Note: Tit 2:5; 1Pet 3:2 in regard to "chaste" also in 1Tim 5:22 "pure" = "chaste".
- B. Arguments of children (and adults) about "everybody's doing it."
  1. What was everybody doing when Noah built the ark
  2. What was everybody doing when Daniel kneeled and prayed three times a day as always?
  3. What was "everybody" doing when Jesus was crucified?
  4. Because "everybody's doing it" does not make it right; in fact, probably the opposite is true. Ex 23:2; Lk 6:26
  5. Someone has aptly said: "A praying knee and a dancing foot never grew on the same leg."

### CONCLUSION:

- A. Parents what are we teaching our children in regard to purity and trying to keep ourselves pure (chaste) 1Tim 4:12; 5:22.
- B. We as parents must be able to recognize immorality and teach our children to be able to recognize it as well, if we are to keep the Lord's church pure.
- C. Remember the criteria for immorality as discussed from 2Sam 13:12,13 (against God – another human and self)