

Lasciviousness: Modest Dress and Dancing *Who Is In Control of Your Spirit*

Intro. 1. Too often we give young adults the impression that **God** does *not* really expect them to live by *His* moral standards (*Sow wild oats*) or too difficult to live by **God's will** today.

a. By our expressions or words we lead many to believe that there is a separate *set of rules* that the young and old live by (*What is the truth about this? What does God expect? How can we know? Jn.16:13-15 "all truth"*)

2. **God** expects you to live by the same standard as every other responsible person (**Ecc.12:1 and I Tim.4:12**) (*So many examples in the scriptures: Abel, Joseph, Ruth, David, Abigail, Esther, Apostles, Timothy, etc.*)

a. **The Lord** does *not* want young people to be miserable, making them feel guilt at every turn, but to *rejoice in their youth* knowing you'll stand by **faith** before the **Judge** (**Ecc.11:9**) (*We are made for God Ecc.12:13*)

3. What does it mean to stand by **faith**? (**Rom.10:17**) (*Several things must be seen in hearing God's Word*)

a. (1) The Bible contains the *words of God* (**I Cor.2:13**) (2) Must take *All Truth* (**Matt.28:20**) (3) A Book of principles, not specifics (**Heb.5:12-14**) (4) Calls and pushes (**Jn.6:44-45**) (5) Twist the Word (**2 Pet.3:16**)

1) *Saints* that live in the world of "*Show me where the Bible condemns that*" totally miss how *God's Word* teaches us to read and understand its contents (*Questionable conduct or Gray areas*) * *Stagecoach - cliff*

b. *Christians* don't live in the *Gray Land* ("*Test all things; hold fast what is good, Abhor every form of evil*" **I Thess.5:21-22** and "*wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil*" **Rom.16:19**)

4. What does **God's Word** teach concerning *lasciviousness*? (**Gal.5:19**) (*OK until you define the word*)

a. "*Denotes excess, licentiousness, absence of restraint, indecency, wantonness*" *Vines* (*Basically: To lust or cause to lust in a sinful way*) **Three things to consider**

I. Modest Dress (*Modest apparel with "propriety and moderation"* **I Tim.2:9-10**) ("*We lost this battle*")

A. Our Dress Can Cause Others To Sin (*The ability to be ashamed and using good spiritual awareness*)

1. "Can you draw a line between modest and immodest? (*Some argue that if you can't draw the perfect line then there is no line. "If judgment is involved then no standard can be applied"* – ridiculous!)

a. One might not be able to draw a *perfect line* (*There might be some leeway or gray area*) but there is a *black and white area* (*Men and women are visually stimulated – good in marriage but bad outside* **Heb.13:4**)

b. *Godly women* realize that men are more quickly stimulated by *seeing* (*She dresses and behaves knowing she can cause him to sin – Boaz calls Ruth a "virtuous woman"* **Ruth 3:6-11**) *Ruth listens to Naomi!* (**Tit.2:3-5**)

1) "*But, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works*" (*Some young women just following the styles of the day, short dresses, shirts, low tops, etc.* * *Once young lady wore one shoulder bare*)

c. Men too must be aware of how they dress and its affect on women (*tight or nude*) (*All consider others when they dress, speak, and behave, knowing they could cast someone their soul* **I Cor.9:22**) * *Football shorts*

2. It's alright to flirt and be attractive but must keep it within certain limits (*There are women who plan to seduce men, not only with their dress but their lips and seductions* **Prov.6:24-27**)

a. The *wise man* says the *unworthy woman* dresses as a *Harlot* (**Prov.7:10**) * *Skimpy dressed in Prague*

B. We All Must Watch Our Minds

1. All must watch their *spiritual hearts* (*Too many Christians fail to think carefully when it comes to their eternal soul, "For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light"* **Lk.16:8**)

a. Notice the young man being seduced by the evil woman ("*Ox goes to the slaughter, Or as a fool to the correction of the stocks*" **Prov.7:21-23**)

2. When we don't take this seriously we will prepare ourselves for the **Big Line** while crossing many **little lines** that prepare us to commit fornication (*Even a man after God's heart* **2 Sam.11:1-4**)

a. Sometimes women make terrible mistakes in going too far (*They think it will tie the man to them and get him to love her. Often it works the other way, Amnon and Tamar* **2 Sam.13:12-17**) * *Watching porn prepares*

3. Fill your hearts with *good thoughts* (**Phil.4:8**) while at the same time *fleeing evil images and thoughts*

a. *Joseph* realized this danger and fled from a woman who was trying to seduce him (**Gen.39:12-13**) (*This is the same thing that Paul told Timothy* **2 Tim.2:22**)

1) We are often unable to erase the consequences of poor decisions (**Heb.12:16-17**) (*Esau couldn't undo all the mistakes he did – adultery, pregnancy, abortion, etc.*)

II. Lewd Dancing (*Where does it say you cannot dance? There is dancing in the Bible.*)

A. There Is A Proper Dancing

1. When **God** powerfully buried the *Egyptians* in the *Red Sea*, *Miriam* and many *Israelite* women **danced** and praised **God** with timbrel as they sang a song of triumph over Pharaoh (**Ex.15:19-21**)
 - a. Also, we read of *dances* of praise and glory to *God* (**Psa.149:3** and **Psa.150:4**) (*Dances of joy and honor before The Lord are not condemned – They are not primarily for human spectacle but for God’s praise*)
2. Obviously, there is no sin in *husbands* and *wives* dancing with each other because they have a physical right to each other (“*the two shall become one flesh*” **Matt.19:5**)
 - a. Are there certain kinds of dancing today that would be acceptable?

B. Many Dances Evoke Lasciviousness

1. Again, many will actually agree with you until they understand what *Lasciviousness* is (*It almost sounds like a disease and it is a spiritual the two shall become one flesh disease. It is a terminal disease spiritually. Eph.4:18-20 and Gal.5:19-21*) (*What do the horrible words associated with lascivious tell you?*)
 - a. *Thayer’s Greek – English Dictionary*: “*Wanton acts such as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females*” (* *Non-Christian friends said followed girl off dance floor*)
2. What did *Jesus* say about *lustful* thoughts in one’s mind? (“*Whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart*” **Matt.5:28**) (*Meditate on before taking Mic.2:1-2*)
 - a. *Indecent bodily movements* are an integral part in dancing (*Not opposed to dancing but lustful looking*)
 - 1) Be careful that you’re not opposed to dancing but you go and make-out in private (*Stirs lust also*)

III. Who Is In Control of Your Eternal Soul?

A. Satan Uses The Fleshly Side To Rule Man’s Spirit

1. At the Beginning, **God** made man with a fleshly and spiritual side with the intention that man’s **spirit** would rule his **flesh** (*Man’s spiritual and physical side lived in perfect balance with the spirit in control*)
 - a. *Adam* and *Eve* were told to let their **mind**, **conscience**, and **will** rule over all *fleshly appetites* (“*Don’t eat of the forbidden tree*” – **God** always intends for the spiritual mind to rule the physical flesh)
 - 1) When commands are given men must let their *spirit* obey regardless of *fleshly desires* (**I Jn.2:3-4**)
 2. *Satan* realizes that if he could fans the flames of men’s *fleshly desires* that they could override man’s *spiritual side* and cause the flesh to **control** man’s decisions and directions (**Gen.3:1-8**)
 - a. Once the *flesh controls* *Satan* can use that to defeat your better judgment so you are in darkness (**Eph.5:6-8**)

B. Satan Attacks This Way Today (Takes Legitimate Desires while Stirring Up Lusts Into Sinful Desires)

1. **Sexual Desire** (“*Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh*” **Gal.5:16-17**)
 - a. *Satan* approaches through *TV, Books, Movies, Songs, Magazines, Internet, etc.* (*Cause fleshly control*)
 - 1) *Sexual Sins* are *pleasurable* (*Create untold misery: Broken Homes, Broken Children, and ruin Gal.5:19-21*)
 2. How do we know when our flesh is in control? (*Difference in weaknesses and allowing control*)
 1. *You Habitually Chose Based On Flesh* (*When you’re all alone*)
 - a. **If Watch and Read** things that continually stir **immoral desires** (*The Corinthians were carnal – “envy, strife, and divisions” I Cor.3:1-4*) *You must get hold of self - Fruit of The Spirit Gal.5:22-25*)
 2. *Controlled If Conscience Always Bothering* (*If conscience has been trained The Word of God*)
 - a. We might rationalize and make convincing arguments but if “*Down deep*” our hearts our consciences “**Nag**” (*If “Mind On Flesh” you’ll die spiritually Rom.8:5*)
 3. We can win this battle through *Jesus Christ*
 - a. There is an **important truth** we must 1st face. (*Easy To Blame Others, including God, Never blame God!*)
 1. “**I’m the one**” that *Satan* enticed to **SIN** (**Rom.7:7-14**) (*Our own fleshly lusts and desires Jas.1:13-17*)

Conclusion: There are two things we must do to win this battle:

1. *Cut Avenues of Evil Influences.* (*Don’t Watch and Read things that stir us; Do right though Sin feels good!*)
2. *Grow Closer To God.*
 - a. (1) *Love God (Mk.12:28-30)* (2) *How do we love God? (I Jn.5:2-3)* (3) *How do we know what is His Will? (Eph.6:12-17)* (4) *Praying always (Eph.6:18)* (*Prayer is powerful Dan.9:20-23*)
 - a. As “*the spirit*” grows stronger it begins to control and “*the flesh*” loses its grip (*spiritual*)