

Lewdness

Introduction:

- A. It does little good to condemn a sinful practice if we do not understand the principle that makes it sinful. - e.g., Elmo, who condemns dancing but defends mixed swimming
- B. Both these practices are lasciviousness. - Galatians 5:19-21
- C. How may we be guilty of lasciviousness?

I. What is “lewdness”?

- A. “shamelessness” - cf. our “open,” i.e., shameless, society; “shame” = “hang-up”
“The prominent idea is shameless conduct...” (Vine. 2:310).
- B. anything which leads to unlawful sexual desires - “sensuality” (NASB; Moulton & Milligan. 84)
 - 1. “follow the inclination to sensuality” (Arndt & Gingrich. 114)
 - 2. **unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness, wantonness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence.... wanton (acts or) manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females, etc.** (Thayer. 80).

II. How is lewdness commonly manifested?

- A. dancing - 1 Peter 4:3-5
 - 1. Dancing involves “indecent bodily movements” and “unchaste handling of males and females.”
 - 2. “Indecent bodily movements” and “unchaste handling of males and females” is lewdness.
 - 3. Therefore, dancing is lasciviousness.
- B. moral filth in magazines, TV, movies (“unbridled lust”) - Matthew 5:27-28; Mark 7:21-23
- C. dirty jokes and filthy language (“filthy words”) - Ephesians 5:3-4; Matthew 12:34-37
- D. immodest dress (“shamelessness”) - 1 Timothy 2:9-10; cf. Revelation 3:18; Genesis 3:7,10-11,21
- E. necking and petting (“unchaste handling of males and females”) - Ephesians 4:17-19

III. Teenagers might complain, “But there’s nothing fun left to do!”

- A. There are more innocent recreational activities than sinful.
- B. Some are only sinful if we behave or dress wrong.
- C. Are you willing to make the necessary sacrifices for Christ? - Luke 14:33

Conclusion:

- A. Lewdness is a cancer that is eating out the life of our society and the Lord’s church from within.
- B. Our lives can either contribute to the problem or be examples to lead others to Christ.
- C. Flee also youthful lusts.