

“...Having the eyes of your heart enlightened...” *Ephesians 1:18*

## Welcome Visitors!

You are our honored guests and we are pleased that you have chosen to visit us today. Our goal is to do everything according to God's word, including respecting its silence. This is a church of Christ; we are not a denomination, not part of anything larger than this local church and we have no earthly "headquarters." The five elders oversee this work and, ultimately, we answer only to Christ. The comments you hear today are primarily aimed at our own members, as we examine Scripture and seek to be built up in our faith in Christ. If you don't understand something, please do not hesitate to ask one of the elders. We welcome and appreciate your comments and questions on any issue and especially if you see or hear anything that you feel does not correspond to God's word. We are here to serve; please help us do that.

**Please fill out a visitor's card and put it in the collection plate. Thank You**

### Schedule

#### The Lord's Day

9:30 AM – Classes

Auditorium: Deuteronomy

Room 13/14: Esther

10:30 AM– Assembly

Speaking today: David Posey

2 PM Class at the Building

Room 13/14

Minor Prophets

5 PM (building)

Fruit of the Spirit

Weekly Young Adults Class

This week: 5 PM @ David & Christie Posey's

Monthly YPM class

Tonight – Junior High at the Castleberry's, 6:30

Tuesday, 10 AM

Ephesians: "Rich Kids"

Wednesday, 7 PM

Auditorium: Deuteronomy

Room 13/14: Esther

Singing at the Folsom Care Center

3rd Sunday each month at 3:15 PM (see Grant Mulligan)

Men's Saturday Morning Meeting

7 AM, second Saturday of the month (see Tyler Wade)

### Information

#### Children's Classes

We have classes for children from 18 months and up. Please see the map in the hallway or ask any of the members which room is appropriate for you and/or your child. There are several Bible studies in progress on Sunday afternoon and evening. Check with David Posey if you have questions.

#### Restrooms

There are two sets of restrooms: one off the first hallway to the right of the lobby and another at the end of the first hallway to the left. Ask anyone and they'll be happy to point you in the right direction.

#### For Small Children

There is a special room for nursing mothers and a separate "cry room" at the rear of the auditorium. You enter them from the first hallway to the right, across from the restrooms.

#### Online

You can find copies of class material and archives of previous editions of the View and listen to sermons online at [www.folsomchurch.com](http://www.folsomchurch.com). Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/folsomchurch>

#### View & Junior View

Be sure to pick up a copy of the View and Junior View; both are sent out weekly, plus there are some hard copies printed on Sundays and available in the foyer.

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

*1 John 3:1-3*

# Gray Matters: Dancing, Mainly

BY DAVID POSEY

I'm old school, so you probably think you know what I'm going to say. You also probably know that in my day, none of the kids from church were allowed to go to dances and I was no exception. On a typical Friday night, we would stand around, bored out of our skulls, and someone would say, "So, what do you want to do?" The response was a simple "can't dance..." There was no grumbling about it nor did we question or complain about it. That would be like complaining about not getting to go to Las Vegas and gambling our allowances away. It was just not something any of our parents would even think of letting us do.

If you think I'm going to break out the "those were the good ol' days" refrain, think again. As I got a bit older, though I had no desire to go dancing, I resented somewhat the fact that no one ever told us *why* we were not allowed to go.

This was not unusual.

Not too many years before I was in high school, there was an unwritten rule that if you were a Christian, you shouldn't play cards. Why? Because cards were used in games that involved gambling (poker, in particular). You see? Gambling was *associated* with playing cards, so steer clear of playing cards and you won't be tempted to gamble.

That reasoning was applied to a host of issues. For example, you shouldn't play pool (billiards) because "pool halls" were known to encourage drinking. The rule against playing pool applied even if you were nowhere near a pool hall. Ironically, many of the men who were promoting this fuzzy logic had no problem going to a baseball game where beer was consumed by the boatload (and there was no 7th inning limit on beer consumption in those days).

*Back to dancing.* This issue was handled in the same way as the others. Many Christians decided that the best way to avoid licentious dancing was to avoid *all* forms of dancing. And, of course, like the prohibition against "mixed bathing," the real issue was never addressed. Seriously: I never knew that the *real* issue behind the "mixed bathing" prohibition was actually immodesty. "Mixed bathing," being interpreted, meant "don't get into a swimming pool or the ocean where members of the opposite sex ("mixed") are also in the water ("bathing") because they are not dressed in "respectable apparel with modesty" (I Timothy 2:9). Sadly, the term "mixed bathing" hardly communicated the real issue.

Similarly, all dancing was lumped together but the *real* reason for the prohibition was never taught (at least in my experience). Times were different back then and so I understand the reluctance to address the lust issue. But that reluctance led to some Pharisaic "fence-building" — in other words, if you never do the *harmless* thing in the category, then you can't do the *harmful* thing. But how'd that work out for the Pharisees?

So, we established that the real issue behind forbidding "mixed bathing" was the possibility of seeing the opposite sex in something close to nakedness. The as-

sumption behind it is

that, if one sees another with less clothing, he (or she) will be tempted to lust after that person.

I'm sure we all see that point. But why didn't they just *say* that and then add teaching from Matthew 5:28 where Jesus says, "everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent..."? That might have

been shocking back then, but it is Jesus making the point instead of a preacher — and putting the responsibility where the text does: on the man who looks at a woman with lust. As it was, the law against "mixed bathing" sounded more like a church ordinance of some kind. A law without Bible authority to back it up is just a human law.

Dancing takes many forms and even appears in the Bible on occasion. There is the harmless dancing mentioned in II Samuel 6:14, when David "danced before the Lord." Or, the "dance" in Ecclesiastes 3, in "a time to mourn, a time to dance." But there is also the seductive dance that Herodias' daughter performed before Herod (Mark 6:22).

As is true in playing cards, shooting pool and "mixed bathing" there is no specific prohibition of dancing in the Bible. And it's hard to see any "evil" in ballet, tap dancing, soft-shoe or square dancing, for that matter. If something is wrong with dancing, the case has to be made on other grounds than the fact that it's a "dance."

Having said that, we know there is dancing — or events that feature dancing — that are inappropriate for any Christian to participate in. I know this not only because I've seen some wild dances at weddings but also because some young people not only go to the dances, but brag about what they did there. And what they are bragging about is far from holy.

*Continued on page 3, in the "Culture Column"*

# THE CULTURE COLUMN

From Culture Translator\*

## Selfie Harm

A recent study of nearly 25,000 people found today's youth are more perfectionist than ever in their desire for flawlessness. This juvenile pursuit of perfection is leading to higher rates of neurosis and an increase in self-loathing among teens. It's something renowned British photographer Rankin tapped into recently on Instagram.

In a series of photos, he photographed teenagers, then handed them their images to edit and filter until each felt their picture was "social media ready." After examining their photos, Rankin noticed the students were "mimicking their idols, making their eyes bigger, their nose smaller, and their skin brighter." He hopes the series will call out the "damaging effects that social media has on people's self-image" as we retouch and photoshop the smallest minutia of our appearance until it's "perfect."

As much as we should know better, most of us are haunted by the delusion of physical perfectibility. "We may not know what it means to be perfect, but we are secretly grieved because we are far from it." Incredibly enough it was our very imperfect skin that Jesus took on when the Word became flesh. Isaiah tells us He had "nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him." Was Jesus overweight or maybe bald? Is it possible in our high Christology to perceive the historical Jesus as someone who was far from physically "perfect"? Yet the central mystery of the incarnation is that God chose to work in and through our fallen humanity to dignify and redeem us—meaning we can forever cease the endless pursuit of external perfection. Because of Christ, we are no longer broken vessels but "noble creatures." And like the students in Rankin's experiment who ultimately preferred their unedited photos over the modified ones, may we ultimately choose to accept the inherent worthiness of our own humanity by believing that through God's grace it is possible to "be perfect" as God our Father is perfect.

## Substances

Trendwatcher news site Mashable posted a multi-slide story to the homepage of Snapchat that gave teens an anti-vaping hotline number. Calling e-cigarette use a "national epidemic" and citing statistics that point to a 78% increase in vaping amongst teens, the story urged teens to text or call an anonymous number for help. On the plus side, pop culture is recognizing the dangers of JUUL and other e-cigarettes for teens and starting to condemn it. But on the other hand, it's clear many teens don't feel like they can talk to their

parents when they struggle because of shame and stigma.

## Cyberbullying

In 2014, Michelle Carter enthusiastically and unceasingly encouraged her boyfriend to go through with killing himself. Tragically, he succeeded, and Carter has been trying to avoid jail time ever since. Now her state's supreme court has ruled against her appeal. When this story first made headlines, some legal analysts (and Carter's lawyers) believed that the appeal would be successful. But in the time since she was first found guilty, our understanding of how cyberbullying works—and how widespread it is—has expanded. It's important to keep talking to our kids about what forms bullying can take so they can seek help when they're the victim and also understand if they're the aggressor.

## Gray Matters: Dancing (continued from page 2)

I don't intend to follow in the flawed footsteps of my forebears who decided to ban anything that was in the neighborhood of something that was ungodly. So, we can stipulate, as we saw above, that there are some types of dancing that are morally benign and harmless. But we also know that some dancing is not. To determine the quality (holiness) of a dance, we should answer some questions:

1. At what point does a harmless dance tilt toward unholiness?
  - How close can a couple get before they are getting into Pr. 6:27 territory? "Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned?"
  - Can you envision allowing the same level of embrace at the mall or another public, well-lighted place?
  - Are there any seductive, suggestive, flirtatious moves in the particular dance? What "pleased" Herod?
2. Dancing and music are paired, of course. Regardless of the form of the dancing, does the music pass the holiness test? Would you be OK with it in your house, with your parents or grandparents there?

I freely confess that I listened to music in the 60s that I would not have invited my parents to listen to because it was filled with suggestive lyrics. But today, some of the music people are dancing to these days is absolutely vile and depraved. That alone should cause second-thoughts about going to some dances.

We are called to holiness. Every action we take must be filtered by that call. The writer of Hebrews is clear.

Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

*Hebrews 12:14*

\***Editor's Note:** "Cultural Translator" is a weekly publication of Axis. We do not necessarily endorse or agree with everything written in it each week. We generally remove links to outside articles, videos and Internet posts unless we've reviewed them to make sure they are appropriate for a church publication. Feel free to share your thoughts on anything we include in this section or anything else in the **View**.