



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Line Dancing



A stepping back into the arms of the world

Should we again break thy commandments, and join in affinity with the people of these abominations? wouldest not thou be angry with us till thou hadst consumed us, so that there should be no remnant nor escaping? Ezra 9:14.

Questions and topics that have perplexed and troubled the people of God in former times, arise again to vex future generations.

As weeds may be tackled and pulled up with diligence from the flower bed, so that nothing detracts from the beauty of the floral display or hinders the growth of the gardener's plants, thus may the sinful activities that spring from the sinful heart of man be conquered by the grace of God in a time of revival blessing. The church is broken up and ploughed by God's power and the root system of sin is crippled by the ploughshare of God's Word, and holiness, largely unhindered, advances amongst God's people. But weeds grow again! They will require the same vigorous treatment if they are not to choke and spoil the flowers and fruits of grace.

Weeds have begun to appear to an alarming degree in the garden of the Lord which was, but a short time ago, ablaze with the beauty of holiness.

There are those who have been angered, on hearing the warnings issued against worldliness within the Free Presbyterian Church. Some have dismissed such warnings as the imaginations of one given to extremism and it has even been suggested that such warnings are evidence of a spirit of legalism at work in the heart of the one who issues the warning. Such reactions also have their parallels in history. Many responded in a similar fashion to warnings of the inroads of worldliness in times past. Ecclesiastical history is replete with examples of what I am saying. However, the matter is soon resolved for sin, like the weed, is not content with putting up a little green shoot here and there and leaving it at that. No! It must take over the garden and choke all life. Time will tell if the dangers warned of are real or imagined.

Evidence

I believe that there is a spirit of increasing worldliness to be seen amongst some young Free Presbyterians. Evidence of this may be seen in the growing acceptance of line-dancing amongst some (thankfully, it is by no means all) of them. I have received letters from young people indicating the growing popularity of this "past-time". I have also seen evidence of such dancing taking place at a wedding involving Free Presbyterians, though it was not a wedding which took place in a Free Presbyterian Church. But that young Free Presbyterians should take part in such activities, within a short time of a service in a house of God, and that such activities are accepted by some adults without protest as part of what ought to be a day of holy rejoicing, is disturbing indeed. It shows how emboldened this spirit of worldliness has become.



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Ordination oath

The founding fathers of the Free Presbyterian Church deemed it wise to formulate an ordination oath for ministers whereby they solemnly swore to publicly denounce the great public vices of drinking, dancing, gambling and the pleasure crazes of this present evil world? That being so, I am required, as are all other Free Presbyterian ministers, to publicly sound out a warning when young people from within our congregations become involved in dancing and have the temerity to introduce such activities into wedding celebrations. The ordination oath of the Free Presbyterian minister indicates that this is a matter on which Christian opinion is settled. Grace has prompted millions to forsake the dance floor, but it has never generated a desire to tango or to break out into the caperings of the line dancer! David danced, or jumped for joy, before the Lord. Such an activity is as far removed from line dancing as the crooning of a pop star is from the sound of heaven's holy praise!

Sheep and goats

It was, I believe, W P Nicholson who coined the phrase, or at least introduced it to Ulster, that many in the professing church have ceased to feed the sheep and have taken to entertaining the goats. Dancing is for goats and those who promote it or sanction it are not acting in the spirit of the Great Shepherd. Let all who love the Lord and have the wellbeing of His people at heart, take a stand against this insidious practice. If ministers, elders, parents, Sabbath and Christian day school teachers and youth leaders do not stand up against the inroads of this evil and worldly trend, then they will be contributing to the downfall of our church and ensuring that it follows in the same sad way of apostasy as did the Presbyterian and Methodist churches here in Ulster.

This preacher is determined not to have such a failure on his conscience.

It is time now for those that have direct knowledge of this sin to stand up against it, irrespective of whom it offends or what reproach they suffer. The honour of Christ and the wellbeing of His flock should move us to action as we look back on fifty years of His mercy to us as a people.

Information on Line Dancing taken from a site on the Internet

Line Dances began sometime around BC. As far as I have been able to determine from research, line dancing in one form or another has been around since recorded time. What we do today evolved from the old "Contra" dances that were very popular in the New England States from the early 1800's. Contra style dances are still popular but in a slightly different form. In the 1800's two lines would form, men on one side, women on the other. The partners would join between the two lines and generally do their own routine down the middle. When they reached the end of the lines, they parted and moved back into their respective lines and the next couple would begin. The "Stroll" from back in the 1940's is a good example of this style of dance. If you saw the movie "Grease", you saw the "Stroll" being done by John Travolta. In the 1970's, the form of Line Dance we do today was born. I have books written by a man who was born in the early 1800's and who gave what I consider to be fairly accurate information on the concept of line dancing. I've seen some very old film dating back to the beginning of moving pictures and some even older photos of African tribes in line dance formation doing step combinations not that far removed from what we do today. There were similar dances done by the American Indian. I



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realize that most people, when they think of Indian dances, visualize circles around a fire but, many dances were done in lines, moving left & right in a step, close, step, close series of moves. . . . Until recently, the most common move in line dances was the basic Schottische; step, cross, step, lift (or scoot). This, followed by the Polka and the Cha Cha, both of which play a very large part in the composition of the Line Dance. . . . Chorus lines, which have been around for a very long time, are not that different in concept when compared with line dances we do today. So, as I said, Line Dancing, in one form or another, has been around for a very long time. . . .