

## THE DANCE OF THE SEXES, by David L. Hatton

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**INTRO:** God's ideas about sex... a good idea (Gen 1:27,31a); a life-long affair (Gen 2:24); meant to be shame-free (Gen 2:25)-- Sexual purity, kept *holy* by godly marriage, is God's design for sexual happiness.

### I. The Dances of the Sexes --

- A. Social mixing with members of the opposite sex: a lifelong reality (school, job, neighbors, church).
- B. Good dancing (friendly with no sexual bonding) vs. bad dancing (based on sexual selfishness)

### II. The Lust Problem: (see cartoon: the lust-related couple are not really happy....)

- A. Guys think physically: sex is *loving* her, but it's really *loving himself*! (2 Sam 13:1-19).
- B. Girls think emotionally: sex wins his *affection*. (not *real* affection; more likely a path to *infection*!)
- C. Unholy sexual union (Heb 13:4) forms bonds that pollute a future marriage (1 Cor 6:15-16).

### III. Facts About Sexual Attraction:

- A. It's a dynamic interplay of physical, social, emotional, intellectual, & spiritual "*chemistry*."
- B. You meet those *before* and *after* marriage who match your sexual chemistry (some at 50, 75, 99%).
- C. Sexual attraction *is* natural and normal, but *it is not love*, although it can plunge you into *lust*.
- D. Attraction can ignite marital love, but love finds health and growth only in *long-term commitment*.

### IV. God Can Make the Arrangements....

- A. *Arranged marriages* are an ancient practice, still working today, with great benefits:
  - 1. Protection during puberty: *hormones* kept in check for future union instead of "the hunt."
  - 2. Escape from hurtful flings: *social energy* harnessed in building loyalty habits and friendship skills.
  - 3. The experience of age vs. the energy of youth. (Young people have very limited hindsight).
  - 4. They do work, because *love is a choice, not a feeling*. (Statistics expose our poor track record).
- B. The overwhelming failure in Western culture's sexual experiment of "*You're on your own....*"
  - 1. Today's parents are ill-equipped to arrange marriages for many reasons....
  - 2. BUT God promises help-- Psa 27:10 (NRSV), "If my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me up."
  - 3. God wants to work with us (Psa 127:1a; and His plan works (Psa 128:1-4)
    - a. *fear the Lord* (*honor, pay attention to, and trust Him*)
    - b. *walk in His ways* (follow *His rules* and *His principles* in the Bible)

### V. Learning the Dance-Step of a Lifetime:

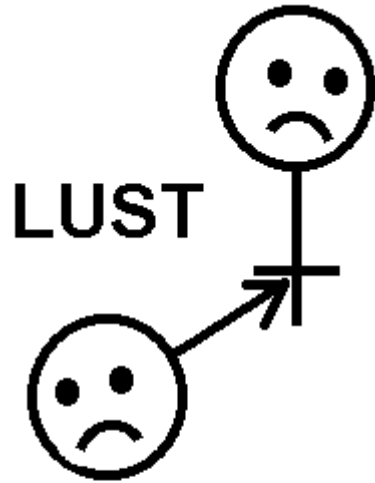
- A. Start learning to dance the right way now:
  - 1. Be loyal to the mate God has picked for you (who is *real, alive, and needs your prayers* now!).
  - 2. Dance with others' mates with care, protecting them emotionally and physically for their futures.
  - 3. No double-standards: married or single, loyalty to mates, present or future, is the only standard!
  - 4. Break habits that stimulate lust or sexual attraction (2 Tim 2:22) (God is into liberating people!)
- B. Enjoy the freedom of dancing loyally for your future mate:
  - 1. No boy-girlfriend hassles (jealousy, break-ups, crises in self-image); enjoy just being friends.
  - 2. Energy lost on drawing sexual attention redirected to build communication and friendship skills.
  - 3. No pressure to hunt for a mate, so use your sexual energy to discover your "*self*" in God's will.
- C. "*But how do I find my future mate?!?*" Submit to Jesus as Lord, trust His leading, and dance right:
  - 1. You won't know for sure who your mate is (even on your wedding day) until you leave the altar.
  - 2. He/she may not even be 60% on the attraction scale (but marital life is a 100% commitment!)
  - 3. Make sure you marry your best friend (you get there by *talking*, not by *stalking*; by *spiritual communion*, not by *sexual union*; by *using your head*, not by *going to bed*!)
  - 4. Warning signs of fooling yourself: "*She/he can make me happy...*" or "*I will change him/her...*"

**CONCLUSION:** (see cartoon: God's plan is for sexual expression under the Cross of Christ...)

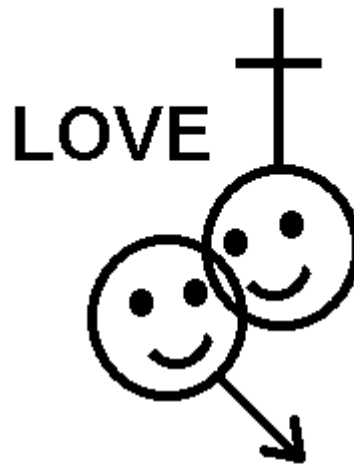
--"But I've already been hurt by dirty dancing" (the name *Jesus* means "*Jehovah delivers, Jehovah heals*").

--Surrender to God for His Holy Spirit to bring *deliverance, healing, and God's will in a mate*:

freedom-- John 8:34,36; healing-- Isa 61:1; guidance-- Psa 32:8. Then trust Him to do it!!



Sexual relationships outside God's will and plan for us, with built-in consequences of long-term unhappiness from our disobedience.



Marriage as God's plan for a life-long sexual expression, with Christ ruling over the relationship and sex under His protection and Lordship.

### *Two concluding poems....*

#### **LOVE OR LUST**

There ticks a human clock  
 Of hormones that unlock  
 When youth has come of age  
 To write the marriage page.  
 But pride and lust can team  
 To smash the wedding dream  
 By feigning tender care  
 To rape the pleasures there.  
 She merely wants his arms;  
 He has to drink her charms.  
 Affection's her desire;  
 He's got to quench the fire!  
 Hot passion wastes what's real:  
 It grabs what it can feel.  
 But love is on alert  
 To guard a friend from hurt.  
 The promises of lust

A fool alone will trust:  
 While lust must seize the bed,  
 True love can wait to wed.

--- David L. Hatton 9/21/91

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#### **SEX**

It's such a fragile gift of God  
 Demanding love's security,  
 A life-long delicate embrace,  
 For safe and holy happiness.

When you tear off the pleasant wrap  
 Before those sacred, solemn vows,  
 You may become destructive thieves  
 Of gifts God meant for someone else.

-- David L. Hatton, 9/8/91