

THE WORKS OF THE FLESH

"LASCIVIOUSNESS"

When was the last time you saw a person blush, or the last time you were not bombarded with, "If it feels good, do it" ? People today seem to take pride in their ability to withstand the feeling of shame, and their inability to restrain their desires. This ungodly attitude is not only a disgrace to any decent society, but is a barrier to any society becoming decent. Such depravity is manifested in the word "lasciviousness".

I. WHAT THE WORD "LASCIVIOUSNESS" MEANS

- A. ASELGEIA - Noun; occurs 9 times in the N.T. and denotes "shameless" conduct. Translated "wantoness" (KJV), "sensuality" (NAS) in 2 Pet. 2:18, Rom. 13:13.
 - 1. "plur. 'wanton (acts or) manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females, etc.' " (Thayer, THAYER'S GREEK-ENGLISH LEXICON, page 79-80).
- B. "Lasciviousness is distinguished from its companion terms, fornication and uncleanness in that it manifests an attitude of mind so exercised in sinning that it no longer cares who knows it or who is hurt by such unrestrained action. As one authority has pointed out, a man may be guilty of unclean or impure thoughts that even lead him to commit fornication, but he still may feel the impact of shame as to make him want to hide it from others. But the lascivious person is one who has come to such a stage of sinning that he make no attempt to hide his sin, and cares not who it shocks." (Barclay- FLESH AND SPIRIT, page 31).

II. THE USE OF THE WORD "LASCIVIOUSNESS" IN THE N.T.

- A. "Lasciviousness" originates as an attitude in the heart (Matt. 7:22).
- B. "Lasciviousness" is the product of a "senseless heart" (Eph. 4:19). Note the condition of mind that allows Lasciviousness:
 - 1. Darkened in understanding ; self-imposed ignorance.
 - 2. Hardened heart to the point of past feeling - not able to feel the compunction of conscience.
- C. "Lasciviousness" is connected with illicit sexual relations (2 Cor. 12:21; Rom. 13:13).
- D. "Lasciviousness" is a tool of false teaching in winning people to their error (2 Pet. 2:18; Jude 4).
- E. "Lasciviousness" is a manner of living where shameless defiance to God's law is the norm (2 Pet. 2:7, cf. Gen. 18, I Pet. 4:3-4).
 - 1. Notice that such mind conditioning and practice leads one to the point where he can not see anything abnormal or sinful about his conduct (Rom .1:32).

III. CONCLUSION

- A. One cannot possess such lawless and unrestrained attitudes and actions and enter into the kingdom of heaven (2 Cor. 12:21, Gal. 5:19-21).

DISCUSSION:

1. Describe the attitude of heart behind the actions of lasciviousness:
2. What attitude is behind the designing of "swim suits" , and what is wrong with a Christian participating in "mixed swimming" ?
3. How does "dancing" manifest the sin of "lasciviousness" ?
4. How does the following statement manifest Lasciviousness: "I know that's what the Bible says, but I don't see anything wrong with it."