

DOCTRINAL STATEMENTS AND THEOLOGICAL OPINIONS (DSTO)

VOLUME 1

H. ETHICAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

Dancing

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Whereas

1. We live in an age in which for a large portion of society the Christian theological-moral foundation has crumbled or is crumbling;
2. A prominent aspect of this disintegration is the growing public acceptance of loose sexual behaviour (private life, entertainment, literature, advertising);
3. It is in this total context that the dance question must be seen:

Therefore we, as a Convention of the Lutheran Church of Australia, mindful of our duty to warn against the evils of the times which particularly imperil the souls of our people, state:

1. Not everything that is called dancing, even when done by partners of the opposite sex not married to each other, is in itself immoral and evil. Christian people may, provided no offence is given, engage in dancing which is in keeping with Christian purity and modesty, that is, dancing which is free from sinful elements like improper physical contact and suggestive movements.
2. On the other hand, Christians are to be warned most earnestly against dangers such as:
 - a) dances which are specifically designed to stimulate sexual passion. This type of dance we condemn without qualification as being a violation of God's command: 'Thou shalt not commit adultery', 'Keep thyself pure', 'Flee youthful lusts'.
 - b) The exploitation for sexual stimulation of dances in themselves innocent.

- c) Attendance at places where objectionable features such as the above prevail. We specifically condemn indiscriminate mingling with people of low moral character, for example, those given to drinking, lewd talk, immodest behaviour, profanity. Ephesians 5:2-4.

In conclusion, we pray that our Christian people may comply with this direction from the Word of God: 'Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.' – Phil 4:8.