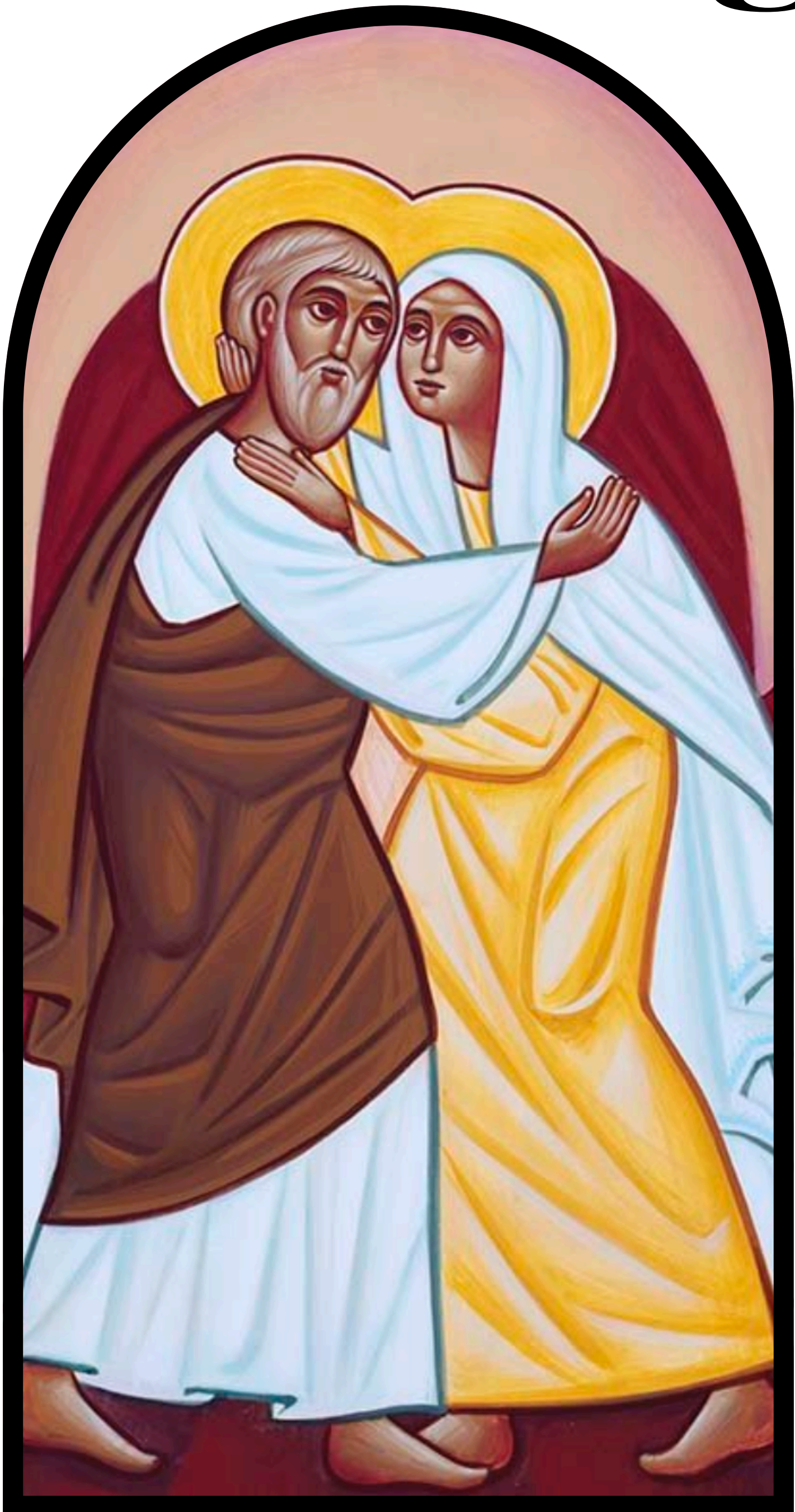


Orthodox Guide Dancing



KYRO

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Preface

Dancing is defined by physical movement. Physical movement is possible through the functionality of the human body. The functionality of the human body is a God given gift to man. Man must understand this physical element before proceeding.

A coherent understanding on the human body as intended by God is required before proceeding.

Dancing

Dancing is a contentious topic within religious culture; nevertheless, dancing is **not** a novel controversy.

- St. Basil the Great -> “**a shameful showroom of obscenities**”
- St. John Chrysostom -> “**school of impure passions**”
- St. Ambrose-> “**choirs of iniquity, destroyers of innocence and sepulchers of purity**”

“The daughters of infamous mothers may go to dances and balls to become like them, but **those who are chaste must avoid dances** if they do not want to perish.”
(St. Ambrose)

- The Holy Bible teaches us there are **two** kinds of dancing.
 1. For **God**
 2. For **Pleasure**
 - a. The secular definition of dancing is “an activity for **entertainment.**”

“For God”

Exodus 15:20 - “Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, **took the timbrel** in her hand; and **all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.**”

1st Canticle -> “Then Miriam answered them saying ‘**let us sing to the Lord for He has triumphed gloriously.**’”

1 Samuel 18:6 - “Now it had happened as they were coming home, when David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, that **the women had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing,** to meet King Saul, with **tambourines**, with **joy**, and with **musical instruments.**”

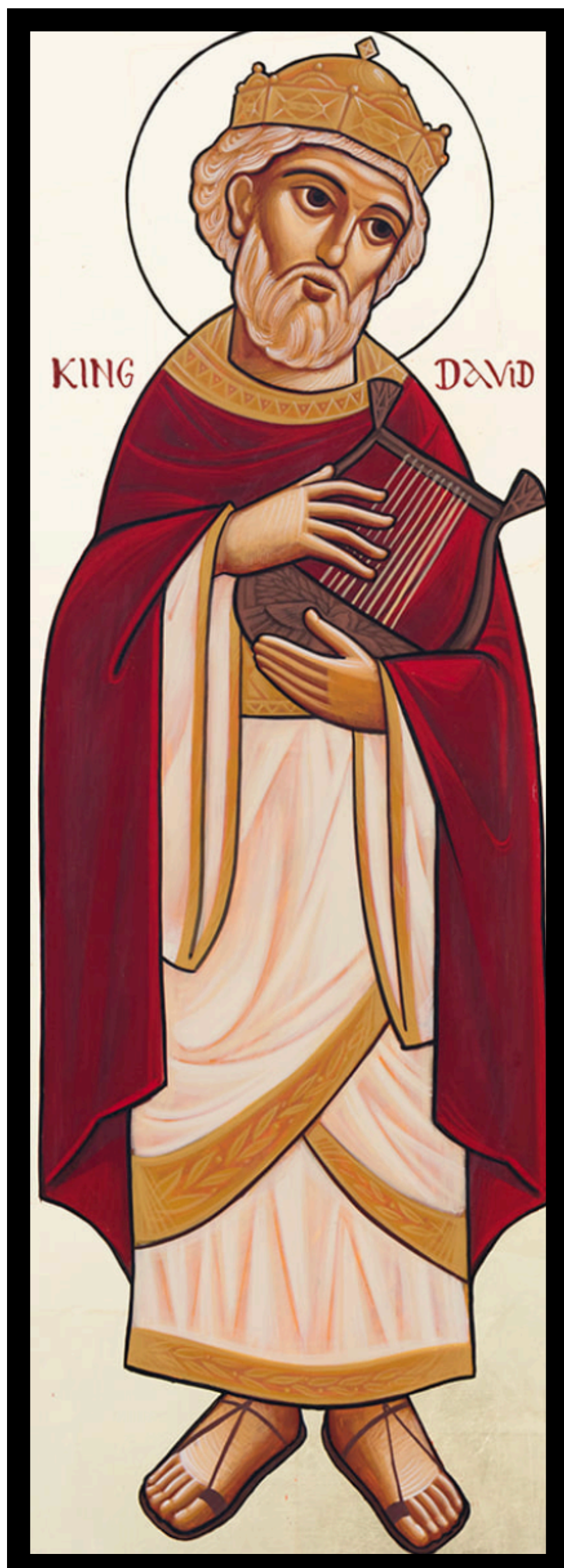
2 Samuel 6:14-15 - “Then David **danced** before the Lord with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with **shouting** and with the **sound of the trumpet.**”

Psalms 149:3 - “**Let them praise His name with the dance; Let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp.**”

Luke 1:41 - “And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that **the babe leaped in her womb**; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.”

- Dancing is defined by a **positive denotation**.
 - Dancing is synonymous with a “**joyful**” and “**uplifting**” feeling.

Many religions, including sister oriental churches, incorporate **dance into worship**.



A Paradoxical Deduction

Dancing is **not** inherently
wrong

Yet

“Christians, when they attend
weddings, **must not join in
wanton dance** but modesty
dine or breakfast as is to
become Christian.”
(Canon 53 - Council of
Laodicea)

A Paradoxical Deduction

Counterargument:

“It is **foolish** for the **Church** and **Church Fathers** to focus on dancing as it is **inherently acceptable** and **seemingly harmless.**”

Response:

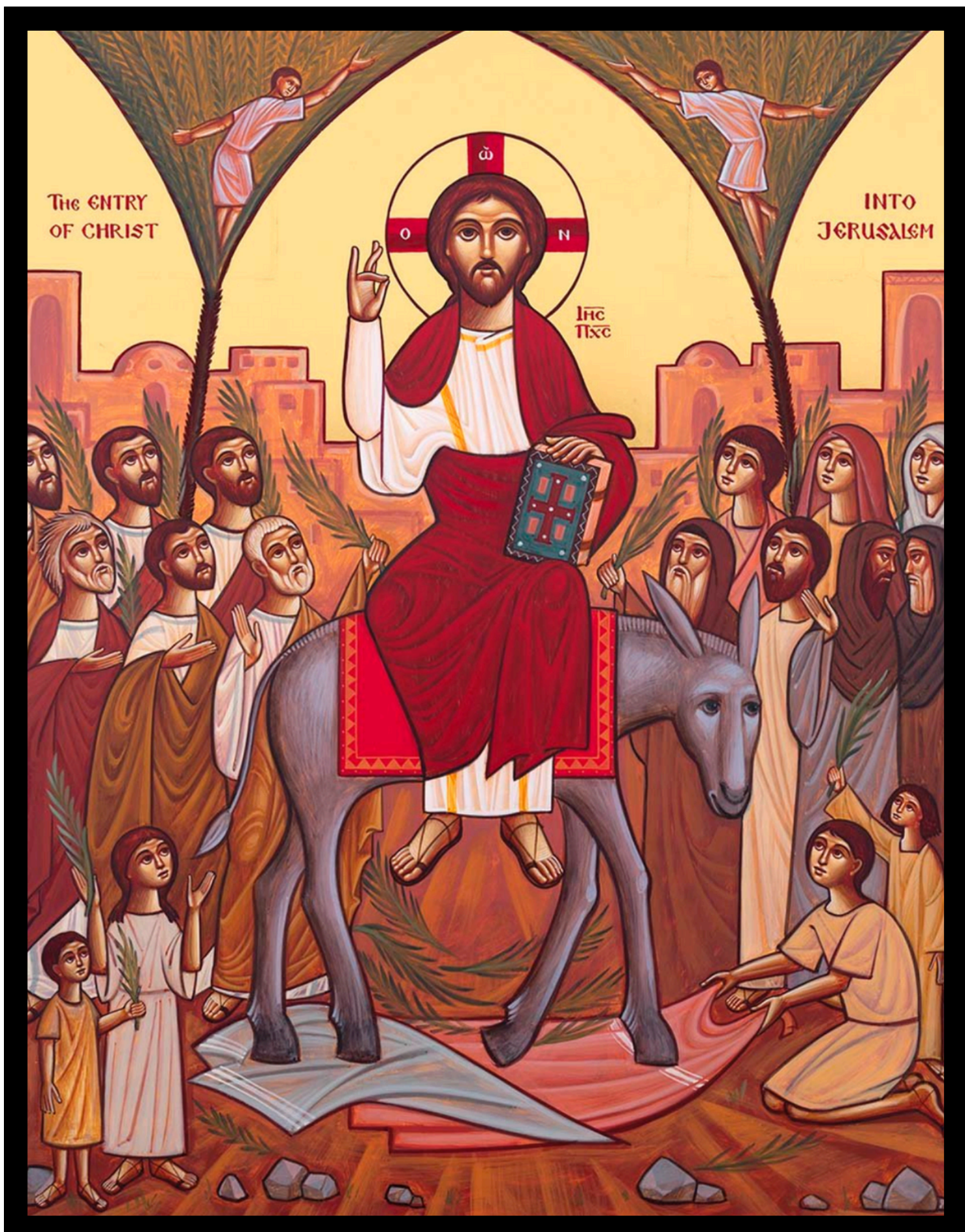
“Because the **foolishness of God is wiser than men**, and the **weakness of God is stronger than men.**”

1 Corinthians 1:25

1 Corinthians 1:25

“Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”

The “foolishness of God” is a recurrent and understandable question in scripture when considering an “incomprehensible” God.



1 Corinthians 1:25

“Because the **foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.**”

Ecclesiastes 3:4 - “A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, **And a time to dance**”

David, the prophet, was criticized by his own wife for the idea and action of dancing.

2 Samuel 6:21-23 - “So David said to Michal, ‘It was **before the Lord**, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the Lord, over Israel. **Therefore I will play music before the Lord.** And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor.’”

David, the prophet, however, proved to be a participant in a holy and religious procession ceremony.

A Paradoxical Deduction

Counterargument:

**“David, the prophet,
danced?! Miriam, the
prophetess, danced?!”**

How is our dancing
different?”

Response:

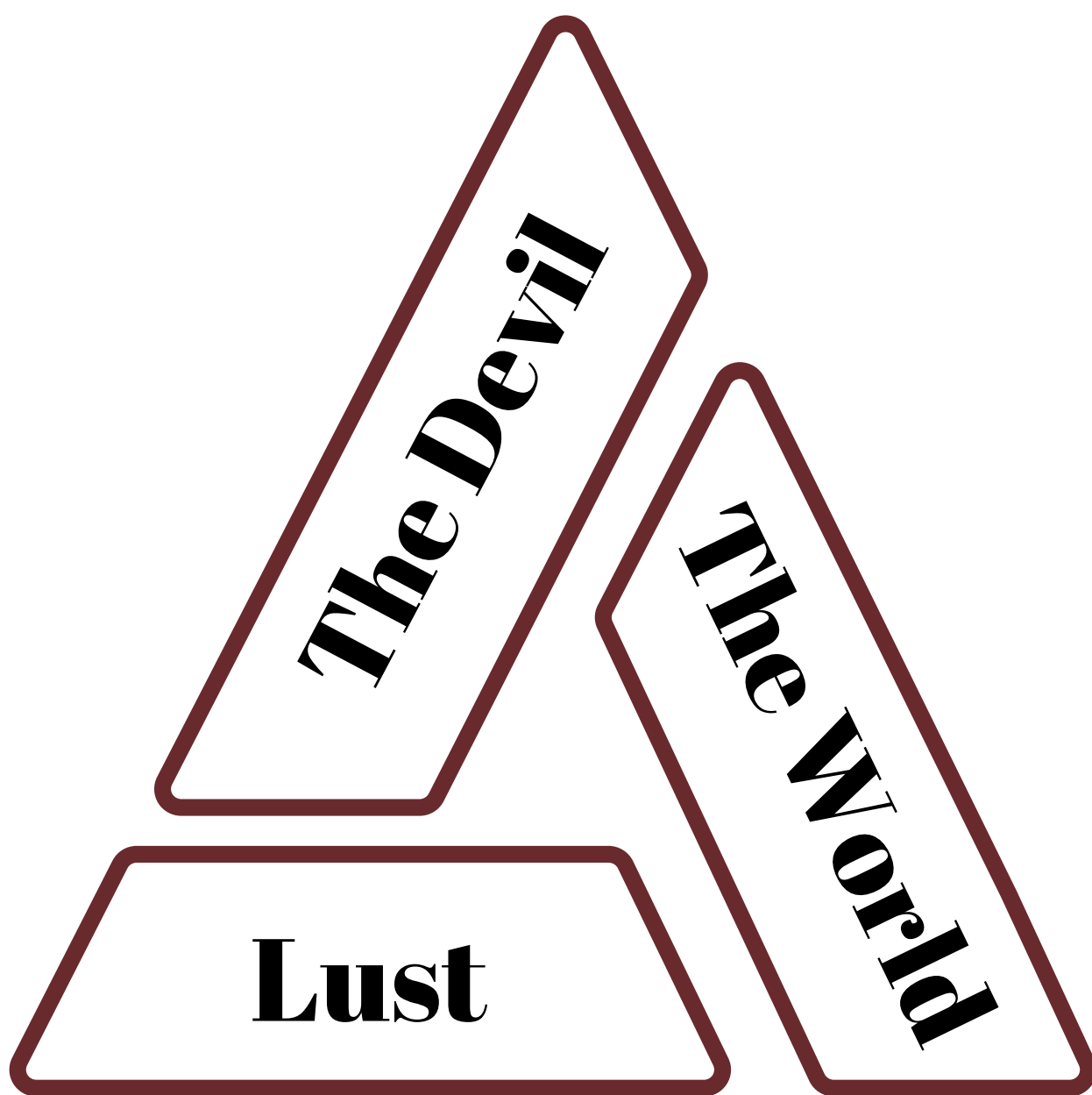
“And you He made **alive,
who were dead in
trespasses and sins”**

Ephesians 2:1

Ephesians 2:1

“And you He made **alive**,
who were dead in
trespasses and sins”

“**For Pleasure**”



Ephesians 2:2-3 - “in which you once walked according to the course of this **world**, according to the **prince of the power of the air**, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the **lusts of our flesh**, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”

Ephesians 2:1

“And you He made **alive**,
who were dead in
trespasses and sins”

The Devil

(Story by Fr. Tadros Malaty).

A friend once cared for his struggling friend. He wanted to write him a letter regarding his ways but knew his friend would neglect the words if they were out of love. The friend hence signed the letter as **written by the devil.**

“I offer you evil sights on the internet and attract you to attend evil parties, to have evil friends, to listen to cheap music, and to dance.”

Dancing in religious culture is defined by a negative connotation.

Ephesians 2:1

“And you He made **alive**,
who were dead in
trespasses and sins”

The Devil

- St. John Chrysostom -> “**Where dancing is, there is the evil one!**”
- St. Ephrem the Syrian -> “**Who invented the dances and the balls? Was it St. Peter? Was it St. John or some of the saints? Certainly not, but rather the Devil, the enemy of our souls.**”
 - (i.e. Prom, Non-Christian Receptions, After Parties, Etc.)
- St. Ephrem the Syrian -> “**Where there are balls, the angels are sad and the devils are jubilant.**”



Ephesians 2:1

“And you He made **alive**,
who were dead in
trespasses and sins”

The Devil

(H.H. Pope Shenouda III: *Diabolic Wars*).

“How easy it is for **the devil** to **call dancing an art!** And to call rude and shameless pictures an art as well; and the same with rude statues. Acting in the theatre and cinema is included under this name 'art', however sinful it may be. Singing or music is also called art though it may be tempting or exciting...**Under the name 'art', the devil conceals a large collection of sins and stumbling blocks which do not deserve that beautiful name!**”

(Veneration: St. Antony).

They fought against you daily/**They tried every possible way/Using many tricks/**Our father Abba Antony

They came with chants and songs/And images of women/To make you fall into temptation/Our father Abba Antony

A Paradoxical Deduction

Counterargument:

**“I am strong enough to
withstand temptation in
environments with dancing.”**

Response:

**“and raised us up together, and
made us sit together in the
heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
that in the ages to come He might
show the exceeding riches of His
grace in His kindness toward us in
Christ Jesus.”**

Ephesians 2: 6-7

Ephesians 2: 6-7

“and raised us up together, **and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus**, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

The Devil

“**Keep them from going to unsuitable places, so that the Lord may guard them from satanic temptations.**”

(Baptism Commandment Prayer for Adult)

Make Good Decisions

- **Is it helpful?**

“All things are lawful for me, but **not all things are helpful**; all things are lawful for me, but **not all things edify**.” (1 Corinthians 10:23)

- **Does it bring me under its power?**

“All things are lawful for me, but **all things are not helpful**. All things are lawful for me, but **I will not be brought under the power of any**.” (1 Corinthians 6:12)

- **Does it hurt others?**

“Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, **lest I make my brother stumble**.” (1 Corinthians 8:13)

- **Does it glorify God?**

“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God**.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Ephesians 2: 6-7

“and raised us up together, **and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus**, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

The Devil

Make Good Decisions

- **Is it helpful?**

“All things are lawful for me, but **not all things are helpful**; all things are lawful for me, but **not all things edify**.” (1 Corinthians 10:23)

Philippians 4:8 - “Finally, brethren, whatever things are **true**, whatever things are **noble**, whatever things are **just**, whatever things are **pure**, whatever things are **lovely**, whatever things are of **good report**, if there is **any virtue** and if there is anything **praiseworthy** — **meditate on these things.**”

Does dancing or any environment with dancing fit any of these criteria?

Ephesians 2: 6-7

“and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

The Devil

Make Good Decisions

- Does it bring me under its power?

“All things are lawful for me, but **all things are not helpful**. All things are lawful for me, but **I will not be brought under the power of any**.” (1 Corinthians 6:12)

(St. Mary of Egypt).

Following the age of 12, she experienced the depth of moral decay falling slave to pernicious dancing, fornication, adultery, lewdness, and drunkenness.



Can dancing or any environment with dancing lead to a loss of christian morals?

Ephesians 2: 6-7

“and raised us up together, **and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus**, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

The Devil

Make Good Decisions

- **Does it hurt others?**

“Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, **lest I make my brother stumble.**” (1 Corinthians 8:13)

Luke 15:25 - “Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, **he heard music and dancing.**”

(Matthew 14:1-12)

The **dancing** of the daughter of Herodias for Herod’s birthday resulted in **the beheading of St. John the Baptist**, a decision Herod himself **regretted**.

Can dancing or any environment with dancing impact others?

Ephesians 2: 6-7

“and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

The Devil

Make Good Decisions

- Does it hurt others?

“Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, **lest I make my brother stumble.**” (1 Corinthians 8:13)

1 Corinthians 10:32 - “**Give no offense,** either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God,”

Matthew 18:6 -“**But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.**”

Can dancing or any environment with dancing be a stumbling block to others?

Ephesians 2: 6-7

“and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

The Devil

Make Good Decisions

- Does it hurt others?

“Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, **lest I make my brother stumble.**” (1 Corinthians 8:13)

1 Corinthians 15:33 - “Do not be deceived: **‘Evil company corrupts good habits.’**”

These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

Can dancing or any environment with dancing be detrimental to others?

Ephesians 2: 6-7

“and raised us up together, **and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus**, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

The Devil

Make Good Decisions

- **Does it hurt others?**

“Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, **lest I make my brother stumble.**” (1 Corinthians 8:13)

1 Thessalonians 5:11 - “Therefore comfort each other and **edify one another**, just as you also are doing.”

Can dancing or any environment with dancing edify others?

Ephesians 2: 6-7

“and raised us up together, **and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus**, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

The Devil

Make Good Decisions

- **Does it hurt others?**

“Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, **lest I make my brother stumble.**” (1 Corinthians 8:13)

1 Corinthians 2:13 - “These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, **comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**”

Can dancing or any environment with dancing be a source of judging for others?

Ephesians 2: 6-7

“and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

The Devil

Make Good Decisions

- Does it hurt others?

“Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, **lest I make my brother stumble.**” (1 Corinthians 8:13)

St. Ephrem the Syrian -> “It is not possible to jump and dance here and enjoy eternal happiness afterwards because the Lord told us ‘Woe to you that now laugh; for you shall mourn and weep,’ (Luke 25).”

1 Timothy 5:22 - “Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people’s sins; keep yourself pure.”

Ephesians 2: 6-7

“and raised us up together, **and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus**, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

The Devil

Make Good Decisions

- **Does it glorify God?**

“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God.**” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

1 Corinthians 6:19 - “Or do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and **you are not your own?**”

Exodus 32:19 - “So it was, as soon as he came near the camp, that he saw the calf and the **dancing**. So **Moses’ anger became hot**, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain.”

Can dancing or any environment with dancing glorify God?

Ephesians 2: 6-7

“and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

The Devil

Make Good Decisions

- Does it glorify God?

“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God.**” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Romans 1:21-24 - “because, **although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools,** and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. **Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,**”

Ephesians 2: 6-7

“and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

Lust of the Body

- Dancing is a **dangerous catalyst** and **trigger** for other sins.
 - Environments of dancing utilize **all five senses of the body**.

Seeing	Other Bodies, Movement, Facial Expressions
Hearing	Music, Inappropriate Speech
Smelling	Perfume/Cologne, Alcohol, Drugs
Tasting	Alcohol, Drugs
Touching	Other Bodies

A Paradoxical Deduction

Counterargument:

“Our bodies are meant to be **expressive** of our ‘**jubilant**’ and ‘**uplifting**’ emotions”

Response:

“For we are **His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that **we should walk in them.**”

Ephesians 2: 10

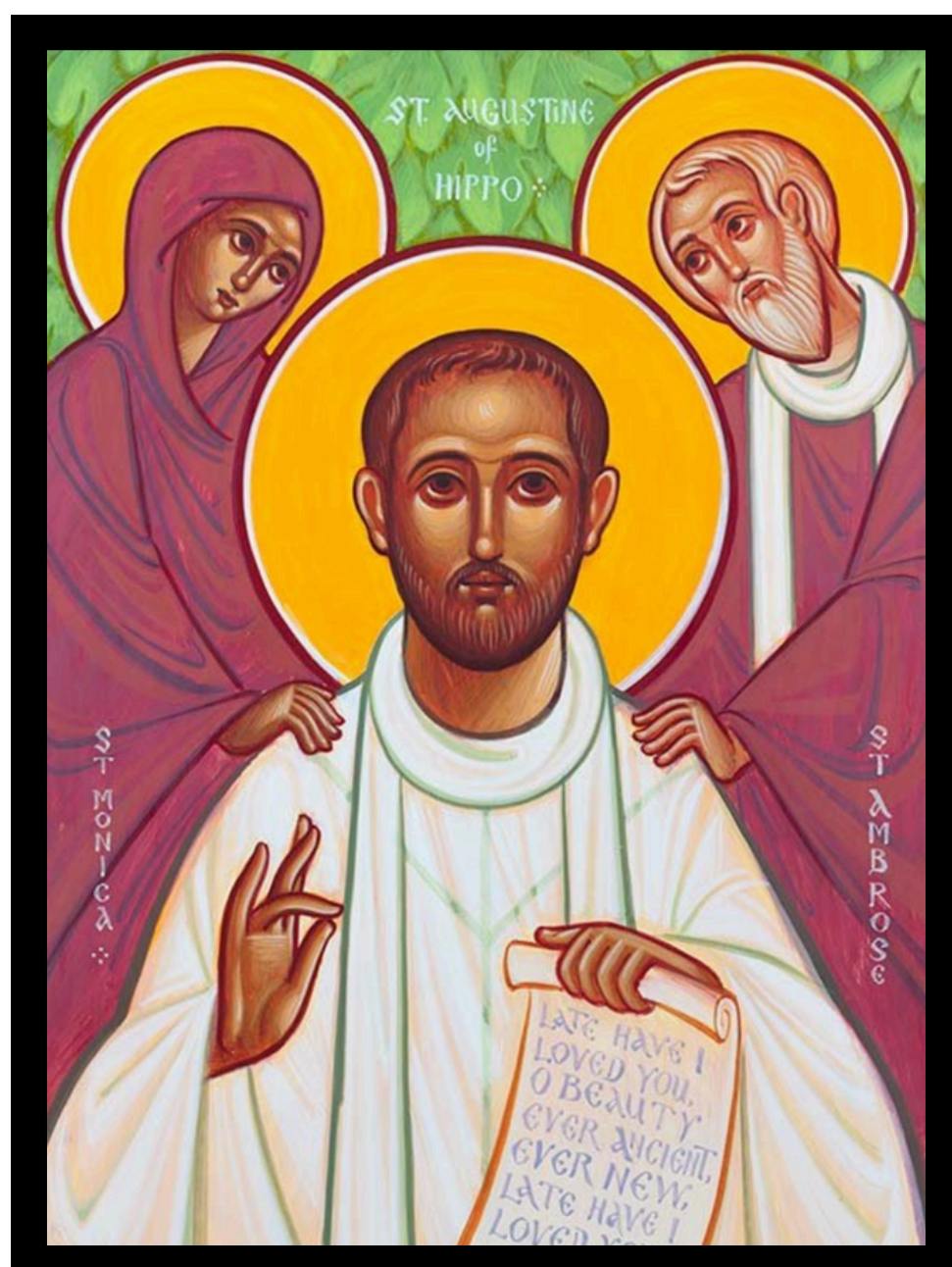
Ephesians 2: 10

“For we are **His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that **we should walk in them.**”

Lust of the Body

(The Conversion of St. Augustine).

Romans 13:13-14 - “**Let us walk properly**, as in the day, **not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.**”



Ephesians 2: 10

“For we are **His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that **we should walk in them.**”

Lust of the Body

Galatians 5:19-21 - “Now **the works of the flesh are evident**, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, **lewdness**, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, **that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**”

(Genesis 39: Joseph the Righteous).

Lewdness refers to **seductive behavior**, a sin most can not imagine falling into. Most, if put in the situation, assume they would be “**Jospeh**.” In reality they **instigate sin** putting themselves in environments they should not be in similar to “**Potiphar’s wife**.”

Ephesians 2: 10

“For we are **His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that **we should walk in them.**”

Lust of the Body

(Judges 21).

Benjamites **seized** Shiloh girls who danced.

- When dancing or in environments of dancing, one may become **captive** to their lustful thoughts and lose control.
 - For this reason, “slow dances” are **not** recommended.

(Story from St. Pishoy Kamel).

Submitting to this captivity is hypocrisy. St. Pishoy Kamel hated this hypocrisy and **excommunicated** two members for it.

“**After buying the church, they asked him to only be concerned with the liturgy and prayers and to leave them in the courtyard for social gatherings during which they would dance and drink wine.**”

Ephesians 2: 10

“For we are **His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that **we should walk in them.**”

Lust of the Body

Exodus 32:25-26 - “Now when **Moses saw that the people were unrestrained** (for Aaron had not restrained them, to their shame among their enemies), then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, ‘**Whoever is on the Lord’s side—come to me!**’ And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him.”



1 Peter 2:11 - “Beloved, I beg you as **sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,**”

Ephesians 2: 10

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Lust of the Body

1 John 2:15-17 - “If your right eye causes you to sin, **pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.** And if your right hand causes you to sin, **cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.”**

(The Need for Seriousness)

1 Corinthians 16:13 - “**Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.**”

Ephesians 2:10

“For we are **His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that **we should walk in them.**”

Lust of the Body

1 John 2:15-17 - “**Do not love the world or the things in the world.** If anyone loves the world, **the love of the Father is not in him.** For all that is in the world—**the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but **he who does the will of God abides forever.**”

(The Need for Unwavering Steadfastness)

Revelation 3:16 - “So then, because you are **lukewarm**, and **neither cold nor hot**, I will **vomit** you out of My mouth.”

A Paradoxical Deduction

Counterargument:

“Socially, there is pressure as everyone dances.”

“Culturally, there is pressure from my family to dance.”

“A celebration without dancing is boring. What is a celebration without dancing? What would we even do?”

Response:

“that at that time you were **without Christ**, being **aliens** from the commonwealth of Israel and **strangers** from the covenants of promise, **having no hope and without God in the world**. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”

Ephesians 2: 12-13

Ephesians 2: 12-13

“that at that time you were **without Christ**, being **aliens** from the commonwealth of Israel and **strangers** from the covenants of promise, **having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**”

The World

Luke 14:26-27 - “If anyone comes to Me and does not **hate** his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”

Acts 5:29 - “But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: ‘**We ought to obey God rather than men.**’”

Ephesians 2: 12-13

“that at that time you were **without Christ**, being **aliens** from the commonwealth of Israel and **strangers** from the covenants of promise, **having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**”

The World

- Dancing and environments of dancing, as with any matter, are **incapable** of satisfying everyone.

Proverbs 23:7 - “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. ‘Eat and drink!’ he says to you, **But his heart is not with you.**”

Proverbs 4:23 - “Keep your heart with all diligence, **For out of it spring the issues of life.**”

Ephesians 2: 12-13

“that at that time you were **without Christ**, being **aliens** from the commonwealth of Israel and **strangers** from the covenants of promise, **having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**”

The World

- **Christ himself could not satisfy all.**
- Matthew 11:16-19** - “But to what shall I liken this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their companions, and saying: ‘We played the flute for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not lament.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ **But wisdom is justified by her children.**”

Ephesians 2: 12-13

“that at that time you were **without Christ**, being **aliens** from the commonwealth of Israel and **strangers** from the covenants of promise, **having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**”

The World

(Saying: St. Macarius the Great)

“**Judge yourself before they judge you.**”

- **It is better to please God than man.**

Matthew 11:29 - “Take My yoke upon you and **learn from Me**, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and **you will find rest for your souls.**”

Matthew 19:29 - “And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, **shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.**”

Ephesians 2: 12-13

“that at that time you were **without Christ**, being **aliens** from the commonwealth of Israel and **strangers** from the covenants of promise, **having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**”

The World

Matthew 10:29-31 - “So Jesus answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, **who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.** But many who are first will be last, and the last first.’”

Ephesians 2: 12-13

“that at that time you were **without Christ**, being **aliens** from the commonwealth of Israel and **strangers** from the covenants of promise, **having no hope and without God in the world**. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of **Christ.**”

The World

- In Christ, **all pressures** are alleviated.
 - In Christ, there is **true satisfaction**.

Jeremiah 31:13 - “Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, And the young men and the old, together; For I will turn their mourning to joy, Will comfort them, And make them rejoice rather than sorrow.”

Ephesians 2: 12-13

“that at that time you were **without Christ**, being **aliens** from the commonwealth of Israel and **strangers** from the covenants of promise, **having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**”

The World

- **Dancing and environments of dancing willingly diverge from this promise.**

Job 21: 11-14 - “They send forth their little ones like a flock, **And their children dance. They sing to the tambourine and harp, And rejoice to the sound of the flute.** They spend their days in wealth, And in a moment go down to the grave. Yet they say to God, **‘Depart from us, For we do not desire the knowledge of Your ways.’”**

Ephesians 2: 12-13

“that at that time you were **without Christ**, being **aliens** from the commonwealth of Israel and **strangers** from the covenants of promise, **having no hope and without God in the world**. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of **Christ.**”

The World

(Story by Fr. Tadros Malaty).

A **grasshopper** was **singing and flying**. An **ant** named **Vigor** was storing food for the summer. The **grasshopper** encountered **Vigor**.

“**What do you want?**”

“**To dwell and eat with you.**”

“**Why did you not store food all summer?**”

“**I was busy singing all summer.**”

Ephesians 2: 12-13

“that at that time you were **without Christ**, being **aliens** from the commonwealth of Israel and **strangers** from the covenants of promise, **having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**”

The World

- **Dancing and environments of dancing subject us to the standards of animals.**
 - **Dances are often named after animals.**
 - **Acting in such a manner will result in the same fate.**

Ecclesiastes 3:19 - “For what happens to the sons of men also happens to animals; **one thing befalls them: as one dies, so dies the other.** Surely, they all have one breath; **man has no advantage over animals, for all is vanity.**”

Ephesians 2: 12-13

“that at that time you were **without Christ**, being **aliens** from the commonwealth of Israel and **strangers** from the covenants of promise, **having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**”

The World

(Story of St. Abanoub).

After hanging him on a ship in Atrib and hitting his mouth, **the soldiers began to sing and dance.** The omnipresence of the Lord prevailed as at once the soldiers became **blinded** and the ruler became **paralyzed.**

(“A Lament for Sin” by St. Basil the Great)

“I weep for having talked idly, used foul language, blasphemed, derided, joked, ridiculed, mocked, enjoyed empty gaiety, singing, **dancing** and every pleasure to excess”

A Paradoxical Deduction

Counterargument:

“I can be present in environments of dancing and participate whether by means of clapping or supporting without dancing.”

“Romans 12:15 commands us to ‘Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.’”

Response:

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

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(WWJD: What would Jesus, St. Mary, or the apostles present at the Wedding of Cana of Galilee do if in attendance?)

1 Thessalonians 5:23 - “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Corinthians 11:1 - “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.”

(Canon 43 - St. Athanasius)

“If a subdeacon marry, they shall not make merry at his festival, neither shall they clap hands nor sing as do the heathen. These same laws are laid down for a reader or a door keeper, that the conditions of the sons of the church may be honorable, envied of all men, and that God’s name may be thereby glorified.”

St. John Chrysostom



St. John Chrysostom repudiated people in his sermons **courageously in disapproval of their actions of dancing**, engaging in profligate games, and immersing in sin and immorality before the statue of Queen Eudoxia.

St. John Chrysostom

"Why then do you celebrate weddings in a silly and immodest manner? Have you no idea what you are doing? You are marrying your wife for the procreation of children and for moderation of life; **what is the meaning of these drunken parties with their lewd and disgraceful behavior?** You can enjoy a banquet with your friends to celebrate your marriage; I do not forbid this, But why must you introduce all these excesses? **Camels and mules behave more decently than some people at wedding receptions!** Is marriage a comedy? It is a mystery, an image of something far greater. If you have no respect for marriage, at least respect what it symbolizes: 'This is a great mystery, and I take it to mean Christ and the Church. It is an image of the Church, and of Christ, and will you celebrate in a profane manner? **'But then who will dance?' you ask. Why does anyone need to dance? Pagan mysteries are the only ones that involve dancing. We celebrate our mysteries quietly and decently, with reverence and modesty.**'"

St. John Chrysostom

“**When you invoke demons by your songs, when you fulfill their desires by your shameful speeches**, when you bring mimes and effeminate actors and the whole theater into your house, **when you fill your house with harlots and arrange for the whole chorus of demons to make merry there, what good can you expect, tell me?**”

“Nowadays on the day of a wedding **people dance and sing hymns** to Aphrodite, **songs full of adultery, corruption of marriages, illicit loves, unlawful unions, and many other impious and shameful themes**. They accompany the bride in public **with unseemly drunkenness and shameful speeches**. How can you expect chastity of her, tell me, if you accustom her to such shamelessness from the first day; if you present in her sight such actions and words as even the more serious slaves should not hear?”

St. John

Chrysostom

“Let them shun the immodest music and dancing that are currently so fashionable. I am aware that many people think me ridiculous forgiving such advice; but **if you listen to me you will understand the advantages of a sober lifestyle more and more as time goes on.”**

“Remove from your lives shameful, immodest, and Satanic music, and don't associate with people who enjoy such profligate entertainment.”

"Don't listen to people who order you to do disgusting things, and don't be enslaved to your own wild impulses.”

“If you are inclined to entertain and give dinner parties, **there should be nothing immodest or excessive about them.”**

St. John Chrysostom

“I know that my words embarrass many of you, and the reason for your shame is your own wanton licentiousness. ‘Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled,’ yet **you give marriage a bad name with your depraved celebrations.**

Why else would you be ashamed at what is honorable, or blush at what is undefiled?

That is why I want to purify your wedding celebrations: to restore marriage to its due nobility and to silence those heretics who call it evil. God's gift is insulted. It is the root of our very existence, and **we smother it with dung and filth.** This is what I want to wash away by my words. So listen to me a little while longer. **Remember that you can't cling to filth without picking up the stench.**

Some of you call my words immodest because I speak of the nature of marriage, which is honorable; **yet you show no modesty in your behavior at weddings.** By calling my words immodest, **you condemn God,** who is the author of marriage.”

St. John Chrysostom

“All of this, and more, **for evil talk has become an art, and those who excel in it are applauded!** Sins have become an art! We pursue them, not by chance, but with studied **earnestness**, and **finally the devil assumes control of his own troops. When drunkenness arrives, chastity departs.** Where there is filthy talk, the devil is always eager to make his own contribution. **Do you celebrate Christ's mystery with entertainment like this, by inviting the devil?** I am sure now that I have offended you. You mock me when I rebuke you, and say I am too austere. **This is only another proof of your perverted manner of life.** Don't you remember St Paul's words: "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God"?" Or the Psalmist's, when he said, "Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice in him with trembling"? **But your behavior is dishonorable and blasphemous, totally without restraint.”**

St. John Chrysostom

“Is it not possible for pleasure and temperance to coexist? Are you fond of music? I would prefer that you love silence best of all, but if you must have songs, choose edifying ones, not satanic ones. Instead of dancing girls, invite the choir of angels to your wedding. "But how can we see them?" you ask. If you drive away the other things, Christ himself will come to your wedding, and where Christ goes, the angels' choir follows. If you ask him, he will work for you an even greater miracle than he worked in Cana-that is, he will transform the water of your unstable passions into the wine of spiritual unity-but remember: if he should come and find the musicians and the crowd making a tumult, he will expel them all before working his wonders.”

St. John Chrysostom



St. John Chrysostom plainly provides clarity on what the **appropriate christian celebrations** look like.

St. John Chrysostom

“**Let there be no drunkenness at the banquets and suppers, but an abundance of spiritual joy.** Think of the many good things that will result from weddings like this! The way most weddings **if we can even call them weddings**, and not spectacles are celebrated nowadays ends in **nothing but evil.** As soon as the banquet is over, the bride's mother has to worry whether anything she has borrowed has been lost or broken, and whatever pleasure she may have had is replaced with distress when she sees what disarray her house is in. **So when Christ is present at a wedding, he brings cheerfulness, pleasure, moderation, modesty, sobriety, and health; but Satan brings anxiety, pain, excessive expense, indecency, envy, and drunkenness.** Let us remember all these things and **avoid such evils**, that we may please God and be counted worthy to obtain the good things he has promised to those who love him...”

St. John

Chrysostom

“What is more disgusting than these pomps of the devil? **There is so much noise that nothing can be heard.** When any words are audible, they are **meaningless, shameful, and disgusting.** There is nothing more pleasurable than virtue, nothing sweeter than orderliness, nothing more honorable than dignity. Those who celebrate weddings such as this will find **true pleasure**, but pay attention now to what is required for such a marriage.”

“Think about all this and stop treating such a great mystery so shamefully.”