

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mr. Brown, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Donna Law, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mr. Nolan, Mrs. Owens, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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Should a Person Attend the Prom?

By Derek Long

Every year in high schools throughout America proms are held. Proms are essentially dances held in the spring typically for juniors and seniors in high school. In our area this year the prom at Hamilton County High School was held on April 9, 2022. What does God's word teach about such activities? Will a person who is striving to please God go to the prom?

The Bible does not specifically mention the word "prom" and so one will not find a verse saying you can go to a prom or do not go to a prom with that specific term. God's word does give us principles though which enable us to make godly decisions in every area of our life (2 Peter 1:3) including whether or not to attend the prom. What are some of these principles which will help a person decide whether they should attend the prom or not?

- Proms are times of lewd and lascivious dancing. The Bible mentions "dancing" in several passages. Some places where the Bible speaks about dancing it an approved action. After the Israelites crossed the Red Sea we are told of all "all the women went out after her [Miriam - DNL] with timbrels and dances" (Exodus 15:20, NKJV). When David was bringing

the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem, “David danced before the Lord with all his might” (2 Samuel 6:14, NKJV). Ecclesiastes 3:4 speaks about, “a time to mourn, and a time to dance” (NKJV). The dances in the Bible which are approved are times of rejoicing and accompanying praise for God. These dances were not mixed dances it does not seem and were not sexual in their nature. It might be more like jumping for joy. The Bible speaks of dancing as well as something with terrible results. One might remember what happens after the lewd dancing of Herodias’ daughter before Herod (Mark 6:21-28). Herod makes a rash promise and John the Baptist is beheaded as a result of this dancing. Such dancing is not approved by God. In the list of the works of the flesh one will find the term “lewdness” (Galatians 5:19-21). Lewdness can be defined in part as the unchaste handling of males and females. The type of dancing people engage in at proms certainly fits the category of lewdness and thus is something we must not engage in if we want to inherit the kingdom of God.

- Proms are also times where many people engage in immodest dress. 1 Timothy 2:9-10 teaches, “in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, what is proper for women professing godliness, with good works” (NKJV). The types of dresses worn at many proms are not appropriate for a person seeking to please God. Many dresses worn to proms excite ungodly passions and are therefore something which people seeking to please God ought to avoid (Matthew 5:27-28; 18:6).

- One way to determine whether something is good or bad is to look at the things which go along with it or the fruits it bears (Matthew 7:20). What sort of things happen in connection with proms? Proms lead to people engaging at times in drinking which is something the Bible condemns (Ephesians 5:18; 1 Peter 4:3-4). Proms lead to people engaging at times in fornication which is something the Bible condemns (Hebrews 13:4). The Bible teaches us to, “Flee sexual immorality” (1 Corinthians 6:18, NKJV). Going to the prom is not fleeing sexual immorality but is instead getting closer to the temptation of sexual immorality.
- Sometimes a person might say, “I am going to the prom but I am not going to dress indecently or dance.” What does God’s word say about this? God’s word teaches us to be careful about the type of company we keep (1 Corinthians 15:33). A person who goes to a prom where everyone is engaged in dancing is going to find it hard to resist the temptation to join along with everyone else. The Bible teaches us to, “make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts” (Romans 13:13-14, NKJV) yet going to the prom is going to make it harder not to give into fleshly lusts. A person also needs to think about whether by going to the prom they will be having fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness or exposing such things (Ephesians 5:11).

We need to think about these topics from time to time and make sure those who are younger think about how best they can avoid temptation and serve the Lord (Ecclesiastes 12:1; 1 Timothy 4:12). Going to the prom does not help a person serve the Lord but will lead one down a path of sin!