

Hypocritical Christians?

by Chris Faison



At this year's Coronation Ball there appears to have been some misconceptions concerning students of the Christian faith who were dancing at the event. This very same issue came up after last year's ball and someone asked me, "how can you and your friends call yourselves saved when you all were dancing at the ball just like I was?" This question caused me to wonder what defines a hypocritical Christian?

The initial distinction between a true follower of Jesus and a pretender lies in one's motives and intentions for one's actions. In this case, one should ask what were my reasons for going to the ball? My reasons were to attend the BSM's formal event of the year as last year's president and to support my friends and fellow Alpha Iota Omega brothers, Dave Cooke (the '99 Mr. BSM) and Hassan Kingsberry (the '00 Mr. BSM runner-up). Jessica Wilson, who is also a Christian, said, "I went to support my roommate ('00 Ms. BSM candidate Ayana Allen) and have fun.

Hypocritical Christians, on the other hand,

attended the ball for similar reasons they would attend Great Hall parties and clubs. Despite all the justifications for going to parties or clubs, most people have impure motives for attending these events, such as dancing in a manner that degrades them or going in hopes of leaving with someone to have sex with later that evening.

So when you get to an event like the Coronation Ball how do you dance? Many of us grew up in traditional churches in the South that emphasized dos and don'ts more than developing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. So many of us have been taught that dancing is wrong. I have come to proclaim that where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. Dancing was created as a way to praise the Lord. Wilson also said, "We were doing line dances and not grinding on each other. Christianity is not about what you can't do but what you can do. It's about pleasing Jesus and not man. You shouldn't be justifying your behavior by what others are doing."

Additionally, if someone who does claim Christ is dancing in a way that offends you, then please go to that person first and let him/her know. I am by no means trying to suggest that Christians are perfect by our own merit.

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There are some questions that everyone should ask themselves, and two specific ones were raised by two serious Christian believers. Miriam Williams asks, "Are you glorifying yourself, your organization, your date or God?" Tinu Akintola adds, "Who are you celebrating?"

Steffon Sharpless, Senior Pastor of The Lord's Church of Chapel Hill, raises an intriguing question by asking, "If we can't have more joy and fun by being born again than we did while we were in the world, then why did we get saved?"

If you think Christianity is about comparing yourself to others and not to Jesus Christ, then you need to seriously evaluate your walk with Christ. I encourage you to ask a Christian friend or a pastor about this issue. Remember that at Judgement Day you will be standing alone.

Chris Faison may be reached at cd333@email.unc.edu