



Liturgical Dance

What it is. What it is not.

What Liturgical Dance Is Not?

- **Secular Dance** – the legal opportunity to **showcase the body** in order to enhance, promote, or sell an agenda with a message of sexuality, sensuality, and eroticism
- **Garments** – as a result, for liturgical dance, garments must properly drape the body, allowing for no distractions

What Liturgical Dance Is Not?

- **Praise Dancers** – worship dancers, dance choirs, chorales, & dramatists; only define one aspect of liturgical dance
- **Liturgical Dancers** – requires a deeper accountability to God with regard to ministry
- **Word Became Dance** – name previously used to emphasize what the ministry values

What is Liturgical Dance?

- ▶ **Liturgical** – root word, “liturgy,” defined as a eucharistic rite.
 - ▶ **Eucharist** – referenced by the early church as the “host” or the consecrated bread taken during the sacrament of Holy Communion
 - ▶ **Rite** – action that is ceremonial in nature, done in public, i.e., congregational.

What is Liturgical Dance?

- ▶ **Liturgical Dance** – expresses the believer's faith through movement ministry in a public worship setting.
- ▶ The goal and result of that expression is *spiritual communion with God*

What are the Biblical Foundations of Dance?

- ▶ English word **"DANCE"** – over 25 occurrences
- ▶ Hebrew or Greek words in reference to an act/action viewed as **"DANCE"** – over 50 occurrences
- ▶ God uses dance to stir up **joy, deliverance, healing, warfare, and worship**

What are the Biblical Foundations of Dance? (Cont'd)

➤ Genesis 1:1-3

- In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was **hovering** over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

What are the Biblical Foundations of Dance? (Cont'd)

- The spirit of God "*hovered*," over the waters
- To stretch out, in an attitude of covering while slowly rocking or moving side to side or forward and back
- Movement was so important, God danced at creation

How Does the Bible Use Dance?

- **Sign of Victory** – “When Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and horsemen went into the sea, the Lord brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through on dry ground. Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her with tambourines and **dancing.**” **Exodus 15:19-20** ; and see 1 Samuel 18:6-7

How Does the Bible Use Dance? (Cont'd)

- **Restoration** – “The Lord appeared to us saying, ‘I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness. I will build you up again and you will be rebuilt. O Virgin Israel. Again you will take up your tambourines and go to **dance** with the joyful’”
Jeremiah 31:3-4

How Does the Bible Use Dance? (Cont'd)

- **Celebration / Praise** – “David, wearing a linen ephod, **danced** before the Lord with all his might, while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouts and sound of trumpets.” **2 Samuel 6:14**; and Jeremiah 31:15; Luke 15:23-25

How Does the Bible Use Dance? (Cont'd)

- **Deliverance** – Hear me, O Lord, and be merciful to me; O Lord be my help. You turned my mourning into **dancing**; you removed the sackcloth and clothe me with joy, that my heart may sing to you and not be silent." **Psalm 36:10-12**

How Does the Bible Use Dance? (Cont'd)

- **God's Pleasure** – “Let Israel rejoice in him that made him; let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. Let them praise his name in the **dance** and let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp. For the Lord takes pleasure in his people.
Psalm 149:2-5

How Does the Bible Use Dance? (Cont'd)

- **Warfare** – “Thus saith the Lord: Clap with your hands and stamp with your feet, and say, “Alas for all the evil abominations of the house of Israel.” **Psalm 149:2-5**

Why Should We Have Liturgical Dance?

- **Romans 12:1**– “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”
- The very lives of the liturgical dancer must be worship unto the Lord, Jesus Christ to the glory of God.

Why Should We Have Liturgical Dance? (Cont'd)

- **Congregation Worship in Movement** – bringing us in one accord, synchronized prophetic movement

Why Should We Have Liturgical Dance (cont'd)

- The **Worship Experience** – vs. service or obligation
- **Dance** allows the **Holy Spirit** to have **full reign**



Why Should We Have Liturgical Dance? (cont'd)

- ▶ **Biblical Pageantry**
– a “grand or gorgeous display,” declarations of God’s sovereignty are lifted-up, invading enemy territory (the air)



Why Should We Have Liturgical Dance? (cont'd)

- ▶ **Choreo-Drama** – To Tell God's story through movement

