

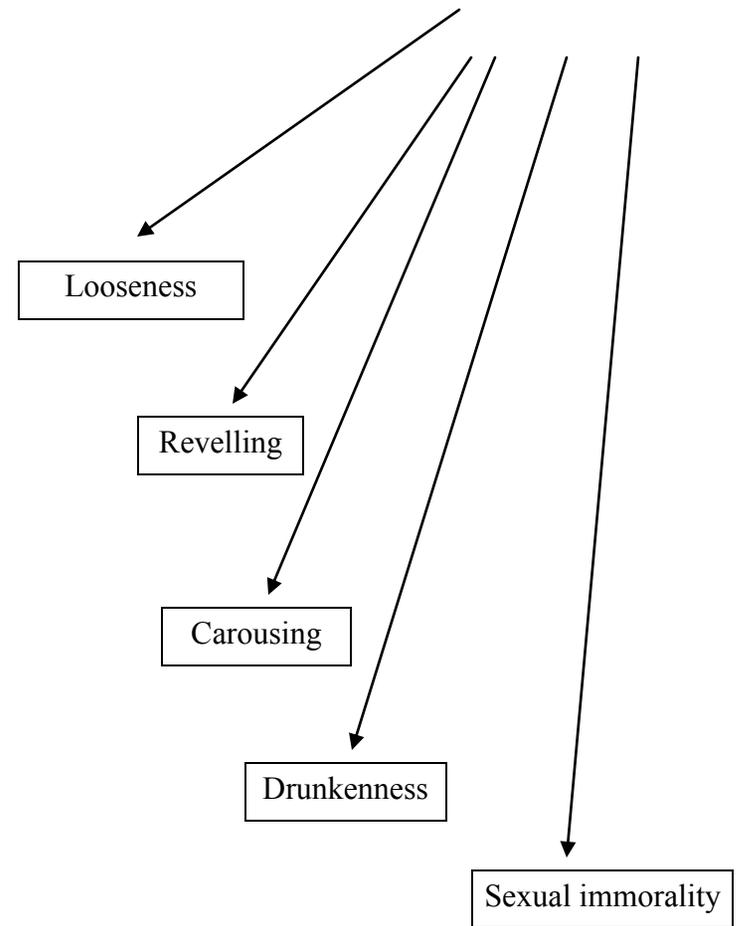
You desire lasting pleasure? Learn about your Saviour. He guarantees that your soul would be fully satisfied. He would fill you with His love and joy. Your soul would never lack happiness. Reject the sinful pleasures of this deteriorating world and accept Jesus Christ to make you sin-free right now . Only Christ in your heart would prepare you for the soon-coming destruction. Forsake the carnival riotous behaviour. Don't disqualify yourself from entering heaven. Revelling is named among the "works of the flesh" in Galatians 5:21.



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# Carnival is Bacchanal



By: Sis. Ann-Marie Ballantyne

The attempts to 'clean up' carnival will continue to be futile. Whether in Ancient Rome, Greece, Brazil, New Orleans, Trinidad and Tobago or St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Carnival celebrations everywhere have the main ingredients in common- drunkenness, looseness and misbehaviour .

While many prefer to dress up carnival in the garb of 'culture and self-expression', we all know that bacchanal/carnival is a "time to get on wild". The revellers will tell you, "it's a time to get drunk and tumble down ...a time to free up and get on bad, bad".

Whether a person cares about the history or not, Carnival can be traced back to the ancient Roman bacchanal- a festival held in honour of Bacchus which is the roman god equivalent to the Greek' Dionysus. The Free English (online) Dictionary describes bacchanal as "a wild gathering involving excessive drinking and promiscuity- an occasion of wild and drunken revelry". According to The Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary, bacchanalian is " (especially of a party) involving a lot of drinking of alcohol, uncontrolled behaviour and possibly sexual activity...". Other sources and any honest observer will agree that this carnal festivity is mostly associated with drunkenness, carousing and senseless revelry.

It is shameful to see women indecently exposing themselves in the name of merriment and culture. Have you no value for your own bodies? Your bodies are the temples of the living God. Why use it to tempt and entice others?

It is sad to see that even children are a part of such lewd behaviour, encouraged by their parents and other adults. They can be heard singing the filthy songs and dancing to the sexually suggestive music. Some of them even attend late night shows with their parents or siblings. Then we wonder why children have so much vice?! Parents, why not help to fill the children's mind with truths from the scriptures to preserve their morality and to teach them how to relate lovingly and unselfishly one towards another?

Year after year, it's the same thing around carnival time. Excessive alcohol consumption, sexual promiscuity, violent activities, road accidents resulting from drunk and careless driving and more. Some artistes lead out in behaving like animals( "party animals", they call themselves) in a frenzy with hundreds of supporters sometimes trampling one another or destroying property.

There are some persons who would talk about the financial gains of carnival by using similar arguments of economics as those used to support homosexuality. To them, I say "better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right." Proverbs 16:8. "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" Proverbs 14:34  
God, who has all authority to define the way of life (culture) of all peoples everywhere, instructs us to "walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lust thereof." Romans 13:13, 14

The Bible warns us against living in "lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revelling, banqueting, and abominable idolatries."(1Peter 4:3) After indulging in this bacchanal activity for years, many of you have come to accept it as good and acceptable 'culture'. Some of you even try to take our minds away from the lewdness and immorality by urging us to "look at the costumes, creative art, skill". The question is: is the skill being used to the glory of God? Or is it used to help to promote lewdness and self glory?

Young men and young women who love your partying -"lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God" who justify your bad behaviour under the name of culture, don't be fooled. Be honest. Would you like Christ to come and meet you 'enjoying' Carnival?

If you really want true lasting pleasure, give your heart to Your Creator. Allow Him to change you and make you beautiful in character-fitted for His service and for His heavenly garner. Solomon, when he forsook God, partook of every sinful pleasure you could imagine. He later 'came back to his senses' being converted to God, and tells us that "all is vanity". He tells us that "...the conclusion of the whole matter is to fear God and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Solomon understood that worldly pleasures are temporary . They leave you unsatisfied. In speaking about God who is able to wholly satisfy each heart, David tells us that "... in thy (God's) presence is fullness of joy and at thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore..."(Psalm 16:11).