

Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Audience: MBC Teens

Series: Questions

Title: Should You Tattoo?

Text:

Why are tattoos wrong?

About 1 in 3 Americans have a tattoo.

What does the Bible say about getting a tattoo?

Lev. 19:28. Christ fulfilled the Law, meaning God is satisfied with Christ's substitution. I believe that the Leviticus verse is referring to unsaved people who were doing superstitious things. God wanted His people to be distinct.

Let me reframe the question from, "what's wrong with getting a tattoo" to "what's right about getting a tattoo?"

1. What's my motive for getting a tattoo? 1 Cor. 10:31. Motives are important to God.
 - a. Here are some examples people have declared as motives:
 - i. To express themselves. "Tattoos are the coolest way of being able to customize your body to the way you want in order to make yourself feel beautiful."
 - ii. To be unique. "The need to feel unique, to fit in, or to stand out."
 - iii. To suffer. The pain of the needle helps them to forget the pain of life.
 - iv. To remember. Significant dates or people that are gone.
 - v. To shock people.
 - vi. To live it up. "I just saw something that I liked and wanted to put it on my body." Partying or drunk.
 - vii. What of these are acceptable motives for a God-fearing Christian?
 - b. What motives should drive us?
 - i. Strengthen and be profitable to me. 1 Cor. 10:23.
 - ii. Helping of others.
 - iii. Glory of God. 1 Cor. 10:31.
 - iv. Pointing others to Jesus. 1 Cor. 10:33.
 - v. Not being brought under the power of any. 1 Cor. 6:12. Power – "freedom of action, liberty to do as one pleases." Permeant altering my body is in a sense limiting my liberty. Paul says he wants to be all things to all men. You can get inked to fit in with others, but you then are stuck unless you opt for a tattoo removal.
2. Is this tattoo a fruit of the Holy Spirit? Eph. 5:1, 5, 8-10.
 - a. Proving what is acceptable is what we are trying to establish here.
 - b. We should test it and see if tattooing is acceptable. *very favorable acceptance.*

3. How much should I modify my body? 1 Cor. 6:19-20.
4. Is this tattoo drawing focus to my body? 1 Peter 3:3-4.
5. Will I want this tattoo in 10 years? Permanent.
 - a. What did you like 5 years ago? Would you want that now?
 - b. Lots of people regret their choice: spouse name, date of sports tournament that they lost. According to one study, 12% of Americans with a tattoo would like to get rid of at least one tattoo.
 - c. Tattoos don't usually age well.
 - d. Commitment.
6. Will a tattoo help me on to God? From the song *Am I a Soldier of the Cross?* "Is this vile world a friend to grace, to help me on to God?"
 - a. It's a lofty thought: but it's relevant. Is what I'm doing helping me in my goal of living for God?
7. Can I give thanks to God for a tattoo? Col. 3:17.
8. Am I fully convinced that getting a tattoo is the right thing to do? Rom. 14:23. If not, I am sinning.
9. Does a tattoo help me look more like Christ or more like the world? James 4:4.

Add: Is a Christian tattoo the best way to express myself, my faith?