



Christians and Tattoos

A Question Answered by Kendall Faull

Question:

Hey Kendall, what's your feelings on Christians and tattoos???

I have gone over the Leviticus verse but I am still unconvinced that tattoos are wrong. It seems to me that it is up to the individual Christian to make the decision to get one, and the Bible does not address it (except in Leviticus) in the New Testament or the new law. Most of the things that I have researched are based completely off of opinion and not Scripture.

Answer:

The New Testament is silent on tattoos. Therefore, I do not judge people who get them (**Romans 14:1**).

However, many do judge it as wrong to alter your body in this way. There will be people who lose respect for you for having one. So what should a Christian do according to the Scripture?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."

The Bible says your body is not our own to do with what you want. Jesus paid for it with His blood and it is HIS.

And the Bible does say that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. So anything we do to the body that Jesus bought and owns, is an important decision.

Before we permanently alter the temple of the Holy Spirit, we should ask several questions based on Scriptural principles to determine whether tattoos honors God with our body or not.

These ten questions below would also be good to ask before making a myriad of choices on other disputable matters as well.

1. Will it be beneficial to me or master me and control me?

1 Corinthians 6:12, "Everything is permissible for me"—but not everything is beneficial. Everything is permissible for me—but I will not be mastered by anything."

2. Will it be beneficial or constructive to the Kingdom?

1 Corinthians 10:23, "Everything is permissible"—but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible"—but not everything is constructive."

3. Does it wound other's weak conscience?

1 Corinthians 8:12, "When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ."

4. Is it a stumbling block to others?

Romans 14:13, "Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way."

5. Is it right in the sight of God AND man?

2 Corinthians 8:21, "For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men."

6. Does it allow you to win as many souls as possible?

1 Corinthians 9:19, "Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible."

7. Would it make it impossible for you to reach some people for Christ whom still want to follow the Law?

1 Corinthians 9:20-23, “ 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.

21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law.

22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.”

8. Do you have some doubts in your heart that it's right?

Romans 14:23, “But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.”

9. What would the mature men of faith, who spoke God's Word to you, want you to do?

Hebrews 13:7, “Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and IMITATE their faith.”

10. What would your parents want you to do?

Proverbs 23:22, “Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.”