

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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Tattoos

by Gary York

Edited by John Robertson to Fit Bulletin Format

The question of whether or not a Christian ought to have a tattoo is not addressed in the New Testament; however, there are principles in both Old and New Testaments that will help us determine whether or not a tattoo is acceptable to God.

Tattooing has been around for thousands of years. Tattooing has a rich history in Eurasia, Japan, and Egypt. Various other cultures have had their own tattoo traditions ranging from rubbing cuts and other wounds with ashes, to hand-pricking the skin to insert dyes.

Tattoos have served as rites of passage, marks of status and rank, decorations for bravery, sexual lures and marks of fertility, pledges of love, punishment, protection, and as the marks of outcasts, slaves and convicts.

Within the last decade the tattoo has virtually conquered the cultural world. The tattoo was, until recently, reserved for the heavy metal rocker or biker...for criminals and the social outcast of society. But today the tattoo glamorously appears everywhere and anywhere. It's the latest fashion craze even in our schools.

It's no surprise that over "70 percent of NBA players have tattoos", according to *In the Paint: Tattoos of the NBA and the Stories Behind Them*, by Andrew Gottlieb, published in 2003. Even in the conservative Golf world you can see that Tiger woods and Lee Trevino both have tattoos.

A 2006 study done by the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology found that 24% of Americans between 18 and 50 are tattooed; that's almost one in four. The survey showed that about 36 percent of Americans age 18 to 29 have at least one tattoo.

According to US news and World report, tattooing is the country's sixth-fastest growing retail business. It is estimated that one new tattoo studio opens up every day.

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our worship service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Volunteers are needed to work the booth at this year's Burkburnett Friendship Festival from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM October 8, 2011. Duties include passing out invitations for Bible studies and inviting people to take our correspondence course.

Caroline Cronin fell and hit her head sustaining a concussion. We pray that she will recover from this accident quickly.

Pat Robertson was back in the hospital this past Tuesday and Wednesday. Pat had taken pain meds on an empty stomach and it caused her to be so sick she had to go to the ER. She was released the next day.

Shut-ins:

Stella Davidson remains at the Texhoma Christian Care Center for rehabilitation. **Stella has asked that we not visit her at this time.** If you would like to mail her a card she is in room 1807.

Calvin York

692-0489 (Home)

Even among Christians, the once forbidden tattoo is welcomed with open arms...(and necks and legs and backs). With the rise of "Christian" music artists now flaunting their tattoos...thousands of young people are getting "marked for Jesus" at "Christian" tattoo shops.

Everyone is doing it...Is it really wrong? What's so bad about it? What if I get a Christian symbol? How can that be wrong? Let us go to the Bible and see what God has to say about this subject.

At Leviticus 19 God was instilling Ritual and Moral Holiness into his people. Leviticus 19:1-2 reads, "*And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.'*" Moses goes on to write, "*Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am Jehovah*" (Leviticus 19:28). Finally, at Leviticus 19:37 Moses writes, "*Therefore shall ye observe all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them: I am the LORD.*"

Any kind of self-laceration or marking of the body was prohibited among the Hebrew people. It was associated with pagan cults, and had to do with dead people. People who were caught up in idol worship and followed false gods...would cut themselves or tattoo themselves as an act of mourning for the dead. That's why God said in Leviticus 19:28...Don't cut your body or tattoo it... God did not want his people to have anything to do with idolatry. The idea was to not be as the surrounding sinful world. God was forbidding a pagan practice.

The fact is...Up until a few years ago, virtually everyone, including the most liberal Christian, knew the tattoo was clearly forbidden by the word of God. And throughout history, the tattoo has always been condemned by Bible Believing Christians. Always. Every Historical resource ever written on tattoos clearly confirms it.

Let us go to the New Testament for ways God wants us to take care of our bodies. Our bodies are not our own. This teaching is found specifically in 1 Corinthians 6:12-20:

- "The body is meant for the Lord" 1 Corinthians 6:13
- "Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit" 1 Corinthians 6:19
- "You are not your own; you were bought at a price" 1 Corinthians 6:19
- "Honor God with your body" 1 Corinthians 6:20

The key principle here is that our bodies belong to God, not ourselves, and that we are to use them in ways that honor and reflect God's glory. The word of God calls upon us to come out of the world of sin and be separate (see 2 Corinthians 6:15-18). Let us use our bodies to glorify God. Tattoos only glorify man by drawing attention to self.

Who Will Be in Heaven?

Heaven is represented in the Bible as the place of greatest human achievement. Those who spend eternity in heaven are the **victors** and conquerors who shall be **rewarded** with an eternal **crown** of glory (2 Timothy 4:7-8). Heavenly people will be exalted above all that have ever lived upon the face of the earth (1 Peter 5:4-6). Heavenly people are those who understand that the eternal victory and crown of glory is not handed to the spiritually slothful but rather to those who have lived a life of faith. Let us examine three areas of heaven bound people's lives.

I. People Bond for heaven never Quit:

- A. Not easily discouraged (Romans 8:31-39; Hebrews 10:32-39; Revelation 2:10).
- B. Example of Jesus (**Isaiah 42:4**; 53:3; Matthew 27:1; Luke 11:53-54; John 7:1, 19, 32)
- C. Apostolic examples (1 Corinthians 4:9-13; Ephesians 3:13; Philippians 3:13-14).

II. People Bond for Heaven Put God First:

- A. At Home
 - 1. Husband / wife (Ephesians 5:22ff)
 - 2. Children (Ephesians 6:1)
- B. At Work (Colossians 3:22-25; Titus 2:9-10).
- C. At Play (Colossians 3:17).

III. People Bond for Heaven Know their Proper Place in this World:

- A. Respect for God
- B. Jehovah is the only one qualified to make laws for man to follow.
- C. His standard of righteousness guides man in the way he is to go (Isaiah 28:17; 48:17).
- D. Man is not at liberty to direct or set his own way (Jeremiah 10:23).
- E. God sets man's parameters (Acts 17:26).
- F. Man must not touch these parameters in an attempt to change them (Zechariah 1:5-6; Malachi 3:6).
- G. All flesh throughout history are commanded to silence such attempts (Habakkuk 2:18-20; Zephaniah 1:7; Zechariah 2:13).
- H. We have absolutely no right to invent even one spiritual law or change the minute details of God's laws (Zechariah 8:16-17).
- I. Man is to greatly respect, reverence, and fear the awesome name of Jehovah God (Psalms 119:161).

Conclusion:

Those who dwell in heaven are not those who never experienced heart aches in this life. Heavenly people are not those who never made a mistake and lived their lives in absolute perfection. Heavenly people are not those who had never experienced emotional strain and extreme heartaches. Heavenly people were not given a silver spoon in this life to where they had never experienced the heart aches of financial strain. Heavenly people did not live their lives in a bubble but rather felt the full brunt of life's temptations and lures. Heaven will be comprised of those who have overcome all these things!