

ACCESS, 2/16 - Tattoos

Read:

Leviticus 19:28 // ¹⁹ You shall not make any cuts on your body for the dead or tattoo yourselves: I am the LORD.

1 Corinthians 6:12 // ¹² All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything.

Romans 7:4 // Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.

1 Peter 3:3-4 // ³ Do not let your adorning be external - the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear - ⁴ but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.

Big Questions:

- Can and/or should Christians get tattoos? Why or why not? Should I?
- What is the heart behind tattoos?

Teaching Points:

- There is only one explicit reference to tattoos in the bible, and both the context and our understanding of the Law and the Gospel help us to understand it more completely
- Like most things, our heart, affection, and motive behind tattoos is more important than the actual physical act of getting a tattoo
- While we are indeed "free in Christ", this does not give us carte blanche to act in any way we choose, be that tattoos, eating, drinking, speaking, etc.

Discussion Questions:

- What are some of the tattoos you've seen? What do you think they mean or say about the person who got them? What is the message behind them?
- Would you ever get a tattoo? What are some reasons you would or wouldn't?
- What messages do the following groups send about tattoos: the Bible, your parents, your friends, society, the media?
- How does the gospel and the Law interact? Is the entire Old Testament/Law now obsolete? If we are now "free in Christ," are we now free to whatever we choose?
- What about piercings or other permanent/semi-permanent changes to the body? What about even non-permanent things such as clothing, hair, make-up, etc?

Recommended Resources:

- <https://www.christianity.com/bible/bible-study/is-it-biblical-for-christians-to-get-tattoos.html>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/tattoos-in-biblical-perspective>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/six-reasons-to-skip-tattoos>
- <http://www.doctrineanddevotion.com/podcast/all-the-bad-things>
- <http://www.joethorn.net/blog/2013/03/17/tattoos-pt-1>