

CITY ON A HILL CHURCH TATTOO POSITION STATEMENT

IS ok for a Christian to have a tattoo or not?

Tattoo's are very common today and it is a very controversial and talked about subject in the church today. Some people feel like a Christian should not have a tattoo and say that it is a sin to do so. But because the Bible is God's very word, we should study to see what it says about this.

What does the Bible say about this?

There is not a lot written about tattoo's, but what is written is important.

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

On the surface, it appears this verse clearly prevents any Christian from getting a tattoo, but lets look closer. First, understand that this verse has to do with the old covenant law, and as believer's of Jesus we are in the new covenant now. There are some things concerning the old covenant law which are no longer binding on new covenant believers (as this is no longer binding). Furthermore, throughout the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelite people to be separate (holy) from all other people (pagans), so as to not take on any of their idol worship or things that they did which was associated with idol worship. At this time in history, it was a common pagan practice, to pray to idols (pagan gods) on behalf of deceased relatives and to cut and tattoo their bodies in reference to this. God told the Old testament Israelites not to do this, because this is something the pagans who worship idols do, they were to separate themselves, according to old covenant law and not participate in idol worship.

But what about the body being a temple of the living God?

This is a common objection heard in church in opposition to tattoo's.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 'Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.'

Again, context is very important. The Corinthian believer's were very sinful and were still having sex with prostitutes (cult prostitutes). The Apostle Paul was telling them to not do so, because they, as believers, were united with Christ and that they couldn't unite (in sex) with prostitutes any longer. This verse doesn't have anything to do with a Christian getting a tattoo.

So can a Christian get a tattoo?

if you are a Jesus loving Christian adult who wants to get a tattoo and it is not a picture of a demon or associated with idol worship in any way then there is no clear prohibition against a Christian getting a tattoo according to scripture. However, remember in whatever you do to not offend your weaker Christian brother or sister (1 Corinthians 8:9).