

## Should Christians Get Tattooed?

Many fads come and go, however some trends leave permanent impressions. The current trend of tattooing is a practice that has been around for a long time. There has been evidence of tattooing discovered on mummified skin that is thousands of years old. In many cultures, tattooing is considered an art form. Today, celebrities, music stars and sports heroes all proudly display body art with the rest of society following suit. When I was a kid, tattoo parlors were not a place where nice people frequented and those who did were considered part of our sub-culture. But not any longer and I suppose they're not considered any worse now than a hair salon. All of which leads to the question, "Is it OK for a Christian to get tattooed?"

Tattooing is only mentioned once in the bible:

*"You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor tattoo any marks on you: I am the Lord." (Leviticus 19:28)*

As you can see the prohibition against tattoos is part of the Old Testament Law. So one might say, "But we have been freed from the Old Law by Christ and serve God under the new Law of Liberty." Which is certainly true, but there are some things we must take into consideration. First, if God didn't like his people having tattoos back then He probably doesn't like it now. Remember He said, "*For I am the LORD, I do not change.*" (*Malachi 3:6*). Secondly, even though tattooing isn't directly mentioned in the New Testament, sinful activity and worldliness is. We are not to be "*conformed*" to the world (*Romans 12:2*) and if we are friends with the world then we are enemies of God. (*James 4:4*). Further study of Christian behavior will definitely infer that following the popular trends accepted by society are not always pleasing to the Lord.

What if I'm a Christian and already have tattoos? Well, we've all made mistakes and misjudgments, but thankfully God offers us forgiveness through repentance (*2 Cor. 7:9-10; 1 John 1:7-9*) so if I have tattoos from the past it can be forgiven and I can certainly make the commitment to my Heavenly Father to never do it again.

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