

## jenaministries – Part 2 Following Christ

### 16. Is It a Sin to Have Tattoos?

In our day and age, many people have tattoos. But, is it a sin to have tattoos? What does the Bible say?

The Old Testament clearly states that getting a tattoo is a sin. In the book of Leviticus and Exodus, God gave instructions (commands) for the people directly to Moses (**Scriptures 1 – Old Testament**). Moses had to put a veil over his face when he returned to the people after speaking with God because his face was glowing and it frightened them. God instructed Moses to tell the people not to get tattoos. These commands came from God personally spoken to Moses. They are not just men's opinions or laws; these came directly from God!

Now that we are in New Testament time (After Christ died for our sins), we are no longer bound to all those commands that the Lord gave to Moses. When we are born again and truly ask Jesus to be our Lord, all our sins are forgiven. We are made clean. So, if we have tattoos before we became a Christian, those are all forgiven. However, the New Testament makes it perfectly clear that our bodies are God's temple and God lives in us (**Scriptures 2 – New Testament**).

We are to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to God, pleasing God. And everything we do with our bodies should be for God. Including how we dress and wear jewelry.

If you already have tattoos from your past, you may want to consider removing them. But that would be between you and the Lord. You should pray deeply about that. God may want to use your old tattoos as a testimony where you came from and how God saved you from that. But then again, the Lord may be offended by your tattoos, or they may turn people away from God; and the Lord may want you to remove them. Let the Lord lead you on what to do.

Knowing that God does not want us to get tattoos from the Old Testament, we truly shouldn't get tattoos once we are saved and following Christ. That would be a deliberate sin.

Remember, everything we do with our bodies should be pleasing to God.

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### Scriptures 1. Old Testament

Leviticus 19:28 'Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves. I am the LORD.

Leviticus 20:23 You must not live according to the customs of the nations I am going to drive out before you. Because they did all these things, I abhorred them.

Exodus 34:29-35 When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the LORD had given him on Mount Sinai. When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. But whenever he entered the LORD's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the LORD.

### Scriptures 2. New Testament

1Corinthians 6:19-20 Do you not know that your bodies are temples 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 bodies.

Romans 14:23 But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

1 Peter 1:14-15 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;

Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1 Timothy 2:9 I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes,

1 Corinthians 10:21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.

1 Corinthians 3:16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship