



## ***The Dangers of Tattos***

***truth about inking the skin***

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Tattoos have grown in popularity since the South Carolina General Assembly became the second to last state in America to ignore the precepts of the Bible and legalize the trade. Beyond the obvious health risks, marking or cutting the flesh is strictly forbidden in the Scriptures, and dangerously disconnects the believer from the Almighty's perfect will. The book of Genesis states that mankind has been made in the image of God. The body is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, and is comparable to the very temple of God. Tattoos mar the original design of the skin and desecrate the body. These abominations insult the Almighty and are akin to screaming at the Heavens, "I don't like the way you made me so I will improve the design!"

*The Smithsonian Magazine reports that tattoos have been found on ancient cavemen and mummified Egyptians. Tattoos were commonly used by worshippers as a sign of commitment to their deity. As Christianity began to spread throughout the world, less and less people accepted this custom. "Whenever missionaries encountered tattooing they eradicated it," wrote Steve Gilbert in *Tattoo History: A Source Book*, p. 101.*

Even though inking the skin has been around for millennia, the Scriptures never indicate that Abraham, Jesus or Paul had tattoos. Having such doesn't better a person's life or bring them closer to God. Infact, they may actually push a person away from the God of the Bible as the origin and meaning behind the tattoo is occultic pagan demonism."Tattooing is often a magical rite in the more traditional cultures, and the tattooist is respected

as a priest or shaman. When the designs are chosen with care, tattoos have a power and magic all their own. They decorate the body but they also enhance the soul," wrote Michelle Delio, *Tattoo: The Exotic Art of Skin Decoration*, page 13.

The Law of Moses speaks against coloring the skin in Leviticus 19:28 "you shall not etch a tattoo on yourselves." Jesus didn't need to specifically address this issue as his listeners already understood the dangers. Besides, what is written in the Old Testament doesn't have to be repeated in the New Testament to apply to believers today. What was wrong to do in the times of Moses is still wrong. This includes defacing the skin with images of bunnies or skulls or whatever. A religious symbol doesn't justify the ink, and may be a bigger slap in the face of God when one of His children has a cross or Star of David imbedded within their epidermis.

Tattoos are also offensive to many Jewish people. Millions of Jews were tattooed with prisoner numbers on their arms when they were taken hostage during the Holocaust. So, when Holocaust survivors view a tattoo that has been willingly placed on the body they have no other choice but to think the person has no respect for their own body, or for what occurred during the Holocaust.

For many, the tattoo becomes the mark of regret. According to the American Society of Dermatological surgery, over 50% of everyone receiving a tattoo wants it removed. Those who already have these spiritual imprints on their body should be aware of the dangers and take appropriate actions. Anyone interested in a new tattoo or piercing should seriously study and pray about this issue. "Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil. May God himself sanctify you wholly. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless," 1 Thessalonians 5:21-23. Just because it is legal and popular in South Carolina (or anywhere else) to get a tattoo doesn't make it the right thing to do.

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