

Tattoos a sin?

So the question asked by the class is are tattoos a sin or is getting a tattoo wrong? I want to encourage you to understand a few things before I answer the question. There is a reason you are asking this question. Possibly you are in an argument with your parents about tattoos. Maybe your friend or pastor told you it was a sin. Before you study this topic I want you to consider this verse:

Romans 14:12-13

“Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God. So let’s stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall.”

If you understand that you will stand before God and give an account of your actions and you know that you are not supposed to do something that would cause another believer to stumble in his Christian walk then I will proceed with my answer.

But the bible says not to put tattoo marks on yourselves.

In Leviticus 19:28 it says “Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves. I am the LORD.” This is clearly in Moses' law to the nation of Israel. The topic of whether or not we are under the law is not within the scope of this answer. In the verses before and after this one there are numerous other cultural issues that are covered. Men are told not to cut their side burns or cut the ends of their beards. The idea that we wouldn't have beards isn't covered because everyone had them. This is a cultural rule intended for the ancient nation of Israel.

Jesus has three tattoos

So if it is cultural we should be able to get tattoos. I believe Jesus has tattoos. I know this is a little odd when you first hear it but here are the verses that lead me to believe this.

In Revelation 19 it says “...He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.” and a few verses later it says “On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. ”

In the first verse I assume a cool looking foreign language tattoo. In the second verse I believe this is probably not written in English so again a cool looking foreign language tattoo. In the next verse we find out that Jesus has our names written in the palms of his hands.

Isaiah 49 says “See, I have written your name on the palms of my hands.”

In the King James “written” is translated as “engraved”. I am sure someone will argue that written isn't tattoo or perhaps they will argue that Isaiah and Revelations are not intended to be taken literally. I personally think tattoos are a bad idea. They are for the most part permanent. As long as you remember that you are not supposed to cause another believer to stumble and you will have to answer to God then I think it is your decision. I don't think it is a sin.