Tattoos: Can a Christian get a tattoo?
December 1, 2017

The subject of Tattoos I am going to answer biblically and with personal opinion.

The most common verse that I hear people quote is Leviticus 19:28 NIV
28 "'Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves. I am the Lord."

This verse was focused on Israelites that mimic the worship practices of the surrounding neighbors involved in phallic cult that represents the different Old Testament Baal worship idols when Israel forsaken God's word and His commandments. These were all sex worshipping idols and since most modern tattoos are not connected to pagan worship practices it really doesn't apply. But, Tattoos are connected to sub cultures and many are anti-Christian oriented.

However, The Apostle Paul writing to Corinthian Church wrote in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NIV
19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;
20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

My opinion and personal point of view:
The first point your body no longer belongs to you because Jesus Christ bought it with a price through His blood.
The second point in consideration for getting a tattoo does it glorify or honor God?
The third point to understand are you influenced by the world or by God's word?
The fourth point what are you representing by getting a tattoo?

If the motivating factor to get a tattoo because everyone else is doing it or it's popular then your attention is about you. We are to be led by the Spirit of Christ not the spirit of the world. Understand what you are influenced by, is what you eventually become. So, what you allow in your life influence many outcomes.

My personal opinion is tattoos are advertising on the human body that says where you have been or where you are in life. For me a tattoo is about foolish past and probably something like what Apostle Paul said, in 1 Corinthians 15:9 NIV
9 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

I have a philosophy I use, "It isn't where you have been as much as it is where you are going." The Apostle Paul wasn't proud of what he had done to early Christians and because of this statement he had regrets but, he had a vivid reminder of God's grace that was extended to him.

What you decide in receiving a tattoo or whatever bodypainting you want to accomplish really depends who are you going represent. Do you want the attention drawn to your body or are you trying to represent Christ? My personal belief is that tattoos are antithetical to Christian life and represent popular culture and/or negative sub cultures I am not critical of those who have tattoos. We all have made decisions that impacted life for the good and bad. The Christian life is a choice and a journey so let's make the choices that impacts the Christian life that best represents who we are. I leave you with Jeremiah 29:11-12 NIV
1 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.