

Berryville Bible Beacon

Volume 6, Issue
May 27th, 2007

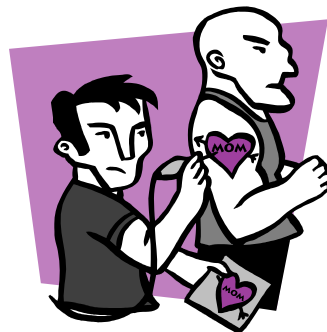
Question: Are Piercings and Tattoos Wrong?

Not too many years ago in our society, one would not have expected to publicly encounter many individuals with odd body piercings or an assortment of tattoos. The few tattoos that one saw were either related to military service or biker gang association. Such, however, is not the case today. Just about anywhere you go now, you will encounter someone with a plethora of tattoos and/or body piercings. It's quite faddish, in fact. The question naturally arises in the mind of the conscientious Christian as to what God's word says on the subject. Is it wrong? Is it bad judgment? Is it a good thing? What do the scriptures say?

Under the Old Covenant, there was at least one type of body piercing that God approved. This was in the case where a master and slave had such a good relationship that the slave desired to give his entire life and the life of his family to his master. Under

the Old Law, slaves were supposed to be set free during the Year of Jubilee (See Leviticus 25). However, the slave who did not want to be set free was to have his ear pierced to signify his desire to remain with his master (Deuteronomy 15:17).

The Old Covenant wasn't so generous, however,



when it came to tattoos. Leviticus 19:28 states, "Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD." Most scholars believe that this prohibition was given as a mark of separation of the Israelites from the nations around them who practiced various forms of idolatry and which tattooing was related to their

idolatrous practices. Israel was to be holy to the Lord (Leviticus 20:7) and maintain their separation from heathen practices (Exodus 33:16, Leviticus 20:24).

Needless to say, we are not under the same restrictions of the Old Covenant today (Acts 15:10, Galatians 5:1). Hence, our pattern for living comes from the example of Christ and also from the teachings of the apostles in the New Testament. While we have no direct prohibition for either piercings or tattoos within the New Testament, we have some principles that would regulate such conduct. Let's examine a few of those things.

First, there is the principle of modest behavior. In 1 Timothy 2:9 as well as 1 Peter 3:3 the apostles teach us that flamboyant or gaudy attire does not become the modest Christian woman. Multiple body piercings, elaborate tattoos, and any other such kind of showy personal expressions would fall

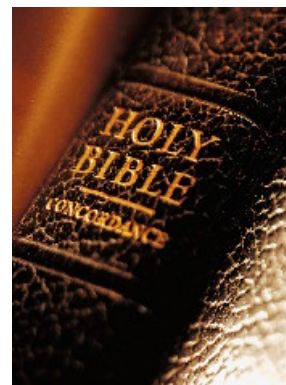
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Welcome To the
Berryville church of
Christ

- ♦ *We are thankful to God for this new Lord's Day. It is the day we honor His Son and the Love that He has shown us through Him. Let us worship in spirit and in truth!*
- ♦ *We salute all of our veterans and military!*
- ♦ **Elders:**
Clay Bozarth
Leon Duncan
Bill Fort
Bruce Foster
Glenn Quigley
- ♦ **Deacons:**
Ken Smith
Rusty Windle
- ♦ **Preacher:**
Kevin Cauley
- ♦ **Phone:**
870-423-3068
- ♦ **E-mail:** bvcoc@alltel.net
- ♦ **Address:** 909 West Trimble, Berryville AR 72616
- ♦ *We are located across highway 62 from Pizza Hut.*
- ♦ <http://www.the-churchofchrist.com>

Bible Studies for the week of May 27th, 2007

AM Sermon	Pattern of Authority
Scripture Reading	Colossians 3:17
PM Sermon	Pattern for the Church
Scripture Reading	Matthew 16:13-19
Sunday Class.....	The Book of Matthew
Wednesday Class.....	The Book of Proverbs
Ladies Bible Class	Dismissed for Summer
Nursing Home Bible Study	The Book of Acts
Home Bible Study	Devotionals from the Book of John



Piercings and Tattoos (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

under this category of immodesty. The Christian is not to call attention to self for the sole reason of promoting self. Often body piercings and tattoos are obtained just for this reason. The attitude of humility would preclude such in the life of the Christian (Philippians 2:3).

Second, there is the principle of separation. God's desire for the Israelites to be separate from the nations around them extends to Christians today as well. Paul tells the church at Corinth, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (2 Corinthians 6:17). The Christian is not to engage in worldly activities as such is indicative of loving the world (1 John 2:15-17). James says that friendship with the world is enmity with God (James 4:4). Inasmuch as tattoos and piercings represent worldliness we ought to have nothing to do with them.

Third, there is the principle of sound speech. Titus 2:8 says that the Christian's speech ought to be irreproachable. Tattoos and body piercings

Speak volumes. Many tattoos represent things that the Christian repudiates such as warmongering, fornication, addiction, and bondage. Piercings may also have sexual connotations and like the improper use of the tongue, the Christian who employs tattoos and piercings may be sending mixed messages. James (3:11) says, "Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?" Hypocrisy, in any form, is sinful (James 3:17).

"Inasmuch as tattoos and piercings represent worldliness we ought to have nothing to do with them."

Finally, there is the principle of purpose. In everything we do as Christians, our purposes must be pure and holy; all must be done to God's glory (1 Corinthians 10:31). Those who obtain piercings and tattoos must ask themselves what their motives are for so desiring such. Does one desire to rebel against parents? Such is a sinful motive (Ephesians 6:1). Does one desire to show one's sexual promiscu-

ity? Again, a sinful motive (1 Thessalonians 4:3-7). Does one desire to use their body art to support anarchy or rebellion? Let not be seen in the life of the Christian (Jude 1:8-10).

While there may not be anything inherently sinful in having one's body pierced or having a tattoo engraved upon one's skin, there are so many things that one need take into consideration to avoid evil, one would be better off not to obtain them. Moreover we certainly would not want to place a stumbling block before our brother (Romans 14:21) and as there are so many other ways that a Christian may honorably express himself, there seems nary a reason to be tattooed or pierced. On this subject then, "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another" (Romans 14:19).

Kevin Cauley

The Week in Review: May 20th, 2007



Sunday Bible Class.....	54
Sunday AM Worship.....	67
Sunday PM Worship.....	52
Wednesday Night Study.....	60
Contribution.....	\$1642.00
Budget.....	\$1743.39

Missions— (cont. from last week)

Last week we took a look at the definition of missions. A mission is a work of the church intended to propagate growth spiritually or numerically either locally or remotely. Jesus gave the church her great mission in Matthew 28:18-20 and we must respect that mission today. We noted last week that the church has a mission to make disciples both locally and remotely. The remote work depends upon the success of the local work. It is, however the remote work more often than not that excites us when we speak of missions.

In the New Testament we see that Paul and Barnabas were sent out from the church at Antioch on a remote mission trip (Acts 13:1-3). Paul made two subsequent such missionary journeys and one as a prisoner to Rome. In these missions, he preached the gospel and was instrumental in establishing dozens of congregations in the Gentile world. His example leaves a pattern for us to follow in working in foreign countries for the purpose of preaching the gospel and establishing the church.

This congregation supports remote

missions in Costa Rica and in India. The congregation has supported works in Africa as well in the past. We also support Truth for Today, Apologetics Press, In Search of the Lord's Way, and The Living Word TV Program. These are all missions in as much as they extend remotely beyond our own town to those around us, some near and some far away. The congregation has also supported me to go on specific mission trips to Costa Rica, Panama, and Brazil. Each of these works produces fruit for the Lord in one way or another and they are good works.

It is so often these remote missions that excite us because they are often areas of the world that to us are exotic and different. Many times also, these areas have individuals whose hearts are open to the truth of the gospel and have a desire to study and learn about God's word and it is certainly thrilling for us to be able to teach and baptize those who want to obey the gospel when so many are apathetic to God's word around us today. Such missions can give us a proverbial shot in the arm to be motivated with our own program of local work. For these and

many other reason, we especially enjoy the remote missions.

A healthy congregation will be active in missions, both locally and remotely. As a congregation, we have such works. There is, however, one final question left to ask. What are we doing as individuals to participate in these works? Let us examine our own lives to ensure that our role in missions is not being neglected.

Kevin Cauley

Kevin's Korner

Just some quick items here. I'm looking forward to our memorial day cookout tomorrow and I hope you are too! Let's also remember our big friends and family day coming up next Sunday. For the luncheon bring food that goes with BBQ.

Two weeks from today, I will begin a meeting in Heber Springs with the Downtown church of Christ there. It will be a Sunday through Wednesday meeting so we will leave on Saturday and be back the next Thursday. Please remember this effort in your prayers.

Announcements

- Happy Memorial Day! Thank you veterans and military for your service!
- Please remember in prayer: Beth Campbell, Carla Etcheson, Cherie Fort, Brian Guess, Ervin Hand, Opal Hull, Bill Webb, mother of Josh Wilson, Mary Young.
- Tomorrow there will be a memorial day cookout at the Cauley's house. EVERYONE is invited to come. Please bring a side dish or a drink of your choice. We'll try to have everything else prepared.
- Next Sunday is our Friends and Family day. This is our special Sunday that we invite our friends and family to worship with us and to enjoy a meal together after services. We still have a few flyers left in the back. Have you invited someone?
- There will be an elders and deacons meeting next Sunday evening after services. If you have an item for these men to discuss, please see one of them.
- June 10th, Kevin has a gospel meeting in Heber Springs, AR. Bob Deffenbaugh will be preaching in his place that Sunday. Thank you Bob!
- Our pantry item is: Laundry Detergent.

God's Salvation Plan

1. **Hear** the Gospel—Romans 10:17
2. **Believe** on the Lord & His Word—Mark 16:16; John 8:24
3. **Repent** of your sins—Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30
4. **Confess** Christ—Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9
5. **Be Baptized** for the remission of sins—Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27
6. Live a **faithful**, dedicated life—Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-10

Welcome!

Visit our web site: <http://www.the-churchofchrist.com>

Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:20 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	6:00 PM
Wed. Ladies Bible Class:	10:30 AM
Wed. Evening Bible Class:	7:00 PM
Thursday Nursing Home Bible Study	2:00 PM

Serving Each Other

May 27th, 2007

June 3rd, 2007

Sunday Morning

Songs:	Glenn Williams	Ken Smith
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Leon Duncan	Dan Hand
Scripture Reading:	Ray Duncan	Kelly Ray Webb
Lord's Table	Rusty Windle	Bruce Foster
	Dan Hand	Rusty Windle
(assist)	Matthew Morrell	Floyd Bills
	Benjamin Windle	George Eddings
Closing Prayer	Bruce Foster	Michael Morrell

Sunday Evening

Songs:	Glenn Williams	Clay Bozarth
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bruce Foster	Glenn Williams
Scripture Reading:	Brandon Foster	Rusty Windle
Lord's Table	Dale Pinkley	Benjamin Windle
	Michael Morrell	Dale Pinkley
Closing Prayer	George Eddings	Matthew Morrell

Wednesday

Songs:	Rusty Windle	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	John Gass	Glenn Williams
Invitation:	Kevin Cauley	Ken Smith
Closing Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	Leon Duncan

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