

Tattooing

Introduction

That tattooing has become so common today is confirmation that we are living under HaSatan's rulership,

And you were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience., among whom also we all once lived in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, as also the rest. (Eph.2:1-3).

It is shameful that so many in the faith have succumbed to the lusts of the flesh and are carrying tattoos, ignorant that by so doing they have transgressed the will of YHWH,

You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am YHWH. (Lev.19:28).

It is sometimes argued that Lev.19:28 is concerning worship and does not include tattoos merely for adornment. But such an argument is without credence because Lev.19 is not concerned with pagan worship practices at all. The chapter provides the rules for holiness, this is clear from verse 1 and holiness is a requirement of YHWH,

The Lord spoke to Moshe, "Speak to the entire community of Israel; tell them, 'You people are to be holy because I, YHWH your Elohim, am holy. (Lev.19:1-2).

What follows is a list of do's and don'ts necessary for holiness, nowhere in this chapter is YHWH comparing pagan worship practices with true worship. To be holy means to be set apart to YHWH. It is true that a priority of YHWH is worship and worship of Him alone (the first commandment) but the only way we can worship Him correctly is by obedience to all that He has instructed. We cannot worship YHWH and live in disobedience that is an oxymoron. YHWH has said 'do not tattoo your body' He has **not** said 'do not tattoo your body this is what the pagans do.' There is no clarification, nor has YHWH attached any exceptions or conditions, **this prohibition is a pre-requisite for holiness.**

What needs to be realised is that tattooing our body is an affront to YHWH, He crafted us, He designed our bodies according to His desire and contrary to popular opinion, our bodies are not our own possession to do with as we like,

*Or do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from YHWH. **You do not belong to yourselves** because you were bought for a price, therefore **glorify YHWH with your bodies.** (1Cor.6:19-20).*

You know that you are the temple of YHWH, and that the Spirit of YHWH dwells in you? (1Cor.3:16)

Far from glorifying YHWH a tattoo is a permanent mark of disobedience and YHWH will not tolerate disobedience.

It is a blasphemy to deface what YHWH has made: it is tantamount to telling YHWH what He has given you is not good enough. These verses leave us in no doubt that tattooing our bodies is a sacrilege.

Will Mashiach be Wearing a Tattoo?

On his robe and his thigh he has a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (Rev.19:16)

Some believe that the above verse shows that Mashiach will be wearing a tattoo when He returns but such an interpretation of the verse is short-sighted. We have just said that this prohibition is a prerequisite for holiness and Mashiach most certainly fulfilled all holiness. What is more Mashiach was sinless (2Cor.5:21) He could not therefore have transgressed a command of the Father. John says He wore a robe hence His thigh would have been covered. Most probably the message was positioned at His thigh. Then there is the allegation YHWH Himself tattoos people; Gen.4:15, and Ezek.9:4. What about Mashiach's promise to the congregation in Philadelphia (Rev.3.12) and the sealing of the 144,000 in Revelation. What needs to be realised is that YHWH can mark the body by causing a skin discolouration, such as birth marks. Another example is given in Exod.4:6 when YHWH causes Moses' hand to be leprous. What we are told is that YHWH marked or placed a sign on people nowhere in the Scriptures are we told that YHWH tattooed people and to come to this conclusion is to read what is not said. Tattooing is man's invention and clearly from the Scriptures was common from a very early age but it was never condoned by YHWH. That said how could He tattoo people? The marking in Revelation is only for the benefit of the heavenly hosts, it is not possible that such marks/signs will be visible to them alone and invisible to everyone else? Is not YHWH capable of doing such a thing? Remember Balaam's donkey saw the angel but not Balaam himself (Num.22:27-31).

Tattoo – A Covenant with Satan

Getting a tattoo is probably one of the most serious forms of disobedience for two reasons. Firstly, it is an indelible sign of disobedience and cannot be removed. Secondly, a tattoo causes blood to be drawn and this has serious religious implications because scripturally covenants are 'cut in blood.' When YHWH covenanted with Abraham and Israel at Mount Sinai an animal was sacrificed – its blood sealed the covenant. It was Mashiach's blood that sealed the 'New Covenant.' We must remember that to disobey YHWH is to obey/follow HaSatan. When we consider the characteristics of a tattoo; it requires blood to be drawn, it is permanent, it is for open display, tattooing is not only the most blatant of sins, it is a covenant sin. You may consider such statements as 'far-fetched' or 'over the top' **but are they?**

Ignorance or Open Rebellion

I believe most of those in the faith and wearing a tattoo are ignorant of the sin they have committed and not even aware of the prohibition. The same cannot be said however, of those obtaining a tattoo knowing it is against YHWH's instruction or getting a tattoo that is of a pagan nature or origin, such people are guilty of deliberate rebellion against YHWH.

But there is always a route back to YHWH, the route of admission and genuine repentance. Mashiach said all sin and blasphemy can be forgiven with a single exception, not relevant to this issue. (Matt.12:31).

The Failing of Congregation Leaders

Sadly, I have heard that when asked about tattooing the representative of a particular church said that he was not too concerned because he saw it as a generational issue. Well, I must ask which generation? Tattooing was popular when I was a boy, and I am a pensioner now. What is more, it has always been a trait amongst tribal people. But the crux of this response is that this representative is quite prepared to let a 'generation' continue to live in sin. How many other leaders within the faith are equally guilty? Let us consider some verses from Ezekiel,

Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. And you shall hear a word from My mouth, and shall warn them from Me. (Ezek.3:17)

Are not all congregational leaders today's watchmen, are they not YHWH's shepherds and responsible for keeping His flock safe? YHWH subsequently tells the prophet what He expects of His watchmen and the consequences of them failing Him,

When I say to the wrong, 'You shall certainly die,' and you have not warned him, nor spoken to warn the wrong from his wrong way, to save his life, that same wrong man shall die in his crookedness, and his blood I require at your hand. (Ezek.3:18).

In Lev.19:28 YHWH has declared all tattooing to be a sin, to be a wrongful act, an unrighteous act.

*And when a righteous one turns from his righteousness and shall do unrighteousness, when I have put a stumbling-block before him, he shall die. **Because you did not warn him**, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done is not remembered, and **his blood I require at your hand**. (Ezek.3:20).*

But if you have warned the righteous one that the righteous should not sin, and he did not sin, he shall certainly live because he has been warned, and you have delivered your being. (Ezek.3:21)

Just as with the prophet, when leaders fail to enlighten their members and leave their members in ignorance, the guilt described above may fall on these leaders and it could be their blood that will be required by YHWH. Another verse comes to mind,

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter. (Isa.5:20).

When leaders remain silent in the face of sinful action it is tantamount to condonement and those leaders will be challenged when they stand before Mashiach on the day of judgement.

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