

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

TATTOOS and BODY PIERCING

We want to consider tattoos and body piercing which are fast becoming accepted practice and even trendy in our society.

NOTE:- This is NEVER an appropriate test for any Christian in any area of life to decide whether or not we should or should not do certain things!

First of all we will look at some general comments-

1. Tattooing and body piercing were originally associated with witchcraft and false religion

Example: Hindus use tattoos, pierce their tongues with small spears and prick their whole body with little hooks and go into trances.

2. It is interesting to remember that those who originally had tattoos in our society were the rebels eg the bikies, 'toughs' etc

3. In our society body piercing started with ladies having pierced ears (earrings).

When men started doing it it was generally confined to the homosexual community who would have one ear pierced.

Now we have both men and women who not only have multiple ear piercings but also many other areas of their bodies are also pierced.

WHAT SHOULD OUR RESPONSE BE AS CHRISTIANS?

1. God's Word warns us not to disfigure our bodies - Lev 19:28; Deut 14:1

a. the warning here about doing this for the dead is because this was a witchcraft rite done to remember their dead; so cutting, piercing and tattooing have their origins in witchcraft practices.

Therefore they are forbidden for believers.

2. I think that it is without serious dispute that we can say that tattoos and body piercing began in the world NOT in the church. Therefore we

Christians need to take heed to

I John 2:15 - " Love not the world neither the **THINGS** that are in the world "

3. Given that these things began in the world and in the occult etc then we Christians need to take heed to I Thes 5:21 - " Abstain from **ALL** appearance of **EVIL** "

4. We need to ask ourselves the question ' Will this defile the temple of God? '

- I Cor 3:16,17

¹⁶Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? ¹⁷If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which *temple* ye are.

5. We need to ask ourselves the question ' Will this bring glory to God? '

- I Cor 6:19,20 ; 10:31

6. We also need to ask ourselves the question ' Will this bring pleasure to God? '

- Rev 4:11 ; John 8:29

Here are a couple of questions some may ask:-

a. What about if I had those things done before I was saved?

They certainly don't affect our salvation and we can still serve the Lord, however, as much as possible they ought to be appropriately covered.

b. What about ladies wearing jewellery?

In the light of I Peter 3:3,4 it seems that it would be acceptable provided it was worn in and appropriate and modest fashion.