

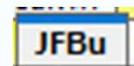
Supplement on Tattoos for a Christian being a “disputable matter”

- There was discussion in morning bible study on April 16 regarding tattoos and body piercings, this supplement attempts to clarify how Christians should understand God’s word regarding the matter.
- Tattoos are not mentioned in the New Testament
- Tattoos are only mentioned in one verse of the Bible, Leviticus 19:28.

Leviticus 19:28

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- This scripture is not about body piercings like earrings, nose rings, etc.
- **Ye shall not make any cuttings...** The practice of making deep gashes on the face and arms and legs, in time of bereavement, was universal among the pagan, and it was deemed a becoming mark of respect for the dead, as well as a sort of pacifying offering to the deities who presided over death and the grave. The Jews learned this custom in Egypt; and, though weaned from it, relapsed in a later and degenerate age into this old superstition →

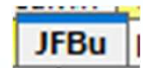


- **Leviticus 19:28 (NIV)**
‘Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves. I am the LORD.
- **Leviticus 19:28 (KJV)**
Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I *am* the LORD.

Leviticus 19:28

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- **Deuteronomy 14:1 (KJV)** *Ye are* the children of the LORD your God: ye shall not cut yourselves, nor make any baldness between your eyes for the dead.
- **Nor print any marks upon you** - by tattooing; imprinting figures of flowers, leaves, stars, and other fanciful devices on various parts of their person. ... It is probable, from the association of [Le 19:29](#), that a strong propensity to adopt such marks in honor of some idol gave occasion to the prohibition in this verse; and they were wisely forbidden, for they were signs of apostasy, and, when once made, were insurmountable obstacles to a return.



Leviticus 19:28

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Leviticus has a lot of rules. Leviticus 19:27 discusses the trimming of a beard. As Christians we are set free from the law. It does not mean that some of these rules do not apply in this dispensation of grace, for example thou shalt not murder. A test for applicability of a rule is this:

Matthew 22:36-40 (KJV) Master, which *is* the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Leviticus 19:28

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My conclusion, Tattoos are not mentioned in the New Testament. Tattoos mentioned in the context of Leviticus 19:28 primarily dealt with acknowledging idols as a form of idol worship. Tattoos do not violate the principle of Love thy neighbor as thyself. It is within our Christian Liberty to get a tattoo or not get a tattoo. Like any Christian liberty it can be abused.

Christians disagree on this, which is why it is a disputable matter.