



**DAMNED?**



2815 GULL RD., KALAMAZOO, MI 49048  
[WWW.XTAT.ORG](http://WWW.XTAT.ORG)

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

SKIN ART  
 TATTOO SUPPLY  
 YOGYAKARTA  
 GEPENX 08179407001  
 PARTO 081 7263754

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

## BY INK ARE YE DAMNED?

Many of us in the tattoo world have had Leviticus 19:28 thrown in our faces - "You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor tattoo any marks on you: I am the Lord." Usually it is meant to condemn either our decorated skin or our profession, if we are tattooists. So what is a Christian tattoo enthusiast or tattooist to say? Is tattooing defiling the temple of the Holy Spirit?

Researching Leviticus 19:28, we find it refers to a heathen practice meant to invoke the attention of pagan gods by means of cutting oneself to prove one's sincerity (LEV 21:5, JER 16:6, DEUT 14:1). An attempt to make oneself worthy to approach some graven image of a god through self-abasement. God rightly admonished His chosen people not to follow the pagan rituals of such false religions. Tattooing today bears little resemblance to these ancient practices, but if you still insist on **literal application** of Levitical law, consider this:

To live by the law, the "Old Covenant" of the Old Testament, one must keep ALL of it (JAS 2:10). Transgressing any part of the law makes us guilty of transgressing it all. According to Levitical law, we may not eat the meat of rabbits or pigs (LEV 11:6-7), nor lobsters, crabs, prawns, oysters or clams (LEV 11:10-12). Shaving the sides of your head (being clean shaven) or disfiguring the edges of your beard (trimming) are also forbidden (LEV 19:27). So, if you've ever eaten a ham sandwich, dined on lobster, trimmed your beard - or have been tattooed - you are **DAMNED! DAMNED! DAMNED!**

So what about our body being the "Temple of God?" Isn't it defiled by tattooing or body piercing? Let's look at the context of those scriptures (I COR 3:16, 6:19, II COR 6:16). In the first instance, Paul is addressing envy, strife & division in the church at Corinth and warning them to be careful of what is built upon the foundation laid down by Jesus, lest the temple be defiled. In chapter 6, he refers to sexual immorality as defiling the temple of the body. In II Corinthians Paul warns against tainting the bodily temple with idol worship.

Jesus Himself said in Matthew 15:11 that it is what comes out of the mouth of man that defiles him - that out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks (MATT 12:34-35). It is the love, purity and faith that comes out of your heart that keeps your temple holy; it is the **strife, immorality and unbelief** within your heart that defiles it. **NOT TATTOOS OR BODY PIERCINGS!**

If your body is the temple of God, you only defile it by getting **bad** or **unsafe** work done; Hire a reputable tattooist or piercer!

Don't let anybody tell you that having some ink is contrary to the Christian Walk! As there are many **musical** styles with which to glorify the Lord, there are also many styles of **visual** expression with the same kind of potential. The **Christian Tattoo Association** is open to both tattoo enthusiasts and pro artists in the field. If you are a "colorful" Christian or a tat pro, consider joining today.

(adapted from CTA newsletter, Eternal Ink)