



## Christians and Tattoos

A Question Answered by Kendall Faull

### Question:

Hey Kendall, what's your feelings on Christians and tattoos???

I have gone over the Leviticus verse but I am still unconvinced that tattoos are wrong. It seems to me that it is up to the individual Christian to make the decision to get one, and the Bible does not address it (except in Leviticus) in the New Testament or the new law. Most of the things that I have researched are based completely off of opinion and not Scripture.

### Answer:

The New Testament is silent on tattoos. Therefore, I do not judge people who get them (**Romans 14:1**).

However, many do judge it as wrong to alter your body in this way. There will be people who lose respect for you for having one. So what should a Christian do according to the Scripture?

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** says, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."

The Bible says your body is not our own to do with what you want. Jesus paid for it with His blood and it is HIS.

And the Bible does say that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. So anything we do to the body that Jesus bought and owns, is an important decision.

Before we permanently alter the temple of the Holy Spirit, we should ask several questions based on Scriptural principles to determine whether tattoos honors God with our body or not.

These ten questions below would also be good to ask before making a myriad of choices on other disputable matters as well.

**1. Will it be beneficial to me or master me and control me?**

**1 Corinthians 6:12**, "Everything is permissible for me"—but not everything is beneficial. Everything is permissible for me—but I will not be mastered by anything."

**2. Will it be beneficial or constructive to the Kingdom?**

**1 Corinthians 10:23**, "Everything is permissible"—but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible"—but not everything is constructive."

**3. Does it wound other's weak conscience?**

**1 Corinthians 8:12**, "When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ."

**4. Is it a stumbling block to others?**

**Romans 14:13**, "Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way."

**5. Is it right in the sight of God AND man?**

**2 Corinthians 8:21**, "For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men."

**6. Does it allow you to win as many souls as possible?**

**1 Corinthians 9:19**, "Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible."

### 7. Would it make it impossible for you to reach some people for Christ whom still want to follow the Law?

**1 Corinthians 9:20-23**, "20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.

21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law.

22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings."

### 8. Do you have some doubts in your heart that it's right?

**Romans 14:23**, "But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin."

### 9. What would the mature men of faith, who spoke God's Word to you, want you to do?

**Hebrews 13:7**, "Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and IMITATE their faith."

### 10. What would your parents want you to do?

**Proverbs 23:22**, "Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old."

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## Dear Brother Faull,

I was at a seminar last weekend. A gentleman asked the following question: "The KJV and NKJV of **2 Samuel 15:7** says '40 years' and the NIV says, '4 years', which is the correct number?"

**KJV 2 Samuel 15:7**, "And it came to pass after **forty years**, that Absalom said unto the king, I pray thee, let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed unto the LORD, in Hebron."

**NIV 2 Samuel 15:7**, "At the end of **four years**, Absalom said to the king, "Let me go to Hebron and fulfill a vow I made to the LORD."

I discussed with him that the Septuagint, Syriac, Westcott & Hort, and Textus Receptus, Alexandrian (Nestle) and the Byzantine (Majority ext) etc, all play a factor in the translations we read. I was unable to give a specific answer on his question.

## ANSWER:

I do not know:

If it was forty years from the time that Samuel had first anointed David as King (Saul continued his reign, in spite of the fact that he had been told "This day is the kingdom taken from you") and if so, this would be about 30 years into David's actual reign.

Or – if it was four years from the time Absalom was reconciled to his father when he was allowed to return home from exile.

Or – if it was four days after he was allowed to return home that he pretended to go and fulfill his vow.

It depends on which manuscripts you accept. The Vulgate, Septuagint, and Chaldee has forty years. The Syriac, Arabic, Josephus, Theodoret, the Sixteen Edition of the Vulgate, and several of its versions read four years.

No Hebrew manuscript has four years though some have forty days instead of forty years.

I do not know that it matters. The books of the Bible in its originals were perfect, but that is not to say there could not be copyist errors in translating from one language to another.

God did not inspire the translators. This may be a good example of a number that was copied wrong. It is not an earth-shaking error.

Does it make any difference in our salvation through Jesus Christ? No – yet of all copyist errors, numbers are the most common ones to be made.

Won't it be a sad day when at judgment men complain that they could not tell if it was four years, forty years, or forty days when Absalom made his request to his father. Yet these are the very things that atheists, agnostics, and weak believers stumble over.

One should expect every preacher to perfectly teach the Bible as to expect every copyist to be error-free. He does not inspire every man who speaks, or every copyist who picks up a quill to copy a manuscript.

I feel like one fellow who said, "I am not worried about the things in the Bible that I do not understand, but the thing that bothers me are the things in the Bible that I do understand that I am not doing."

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## CHALLENGING THOUGHTS

Lord, your Word says that it is a true saying worthy of all acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. Your Word says, "The Spirit and the Bride say, come." Lord; count me in on your plan. I want to be used to win souls. Father, I want to join You, Your Son, Jesus Christ, Your Holy Spirit, and Your holy angels in rejoicing over sinner's repentance.

1. Let me first find my family and introduce them to the Christ. **John 1:41**, "He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ."
2. Then let me find my friends and introduce them to the Christ. **John 1:45**, "Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."
3. Let me tell Your secret admirers, like Nicodemus, that they must be born-again of the water and Spirit. **John Chapter 3**
4. Let me find that oft-divorced woman that is living with a man that is not her husband and get her to desire a water that she thirst no more. **John Chapter 4**.
5. Let me find the Zacchaeus who is up the tree of curiosity and brings salvation to his house this day. **Luke Chapter 19**
6. Lead me to that black man who is reading the Scripture and needs someone to guide him to Christ so he can go on his way rejoicing. **Acts Chapter 8**
7. Let me find that preacher, like Apollos, who is mighty in the Scripture to whom I can teach the way of the Lord more perfectly. **Acts Chapter 18**
8. Lord; lead me to some devout almsgiving, praying soldier, like Cornelius, so I can tell him words whereby he and his household might be saved. **Acts Chapter 10**.
9. Let my life be so full of joy in my adversity that some jailer would ask me what he must do to be saved so that he and his believing household might be saved. **Acts Chapter 16**
10. Lead me to some ladies' prayer meeting where a Lydia might attend to the things of which I speak. **Acts Chapter 16**
11. May I be a part of a Church that goes everywhere preaching the Word. **Acts 8:4** Help me to be one that turns the world upside down by the preaching of Your Word. **Acts 17:6**
12. Let me also have fruit among both Jew and Gentile, and may I feel the debt I owe to both the cultured and uncultured, the wise and unwise. **Romans 1:13-14**
13. So much as in me is, Lord, I am ready to teach the Gospel to all those whom You lead me to by Your providence. **Romans 13:15**

I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for I know it will save both me and those who hear me. **I Timothy 4:16**.  
In Jesus Name, Amen.

## WHY HYPOCRITES IN THE CHURCH?



Why should men be surprised when they find a hypocrite in the Church? I expect hypocrites in the Church and, in fact, would be surprised if there were none. Why do I expect hypocrites in the Church?

**FIRST** – Because Jesus had them in His small group of followers. Jesus chose the twelve, but

He said one of them was a devil. **John 6:70**

One of His own betrayed Him. Nor did he do so with just a kiss on the cheek. The word for “kiss” is a special Greek word, which denotes a “fervent kiss”. If he was an enemy, why the kiss? If he was a friend, why did he wear a sword? Oh yes, Jesus had a hypocrite in His small band of handpicked men. Why then not expect it among His volunteers?

**SECONDLY** – Because Jesus instructed in His parables that there would be hypocrites among believers.

Did He not say that there was wayside soil, stony soil, and thorny soil as well as good soil?

Did He not say that the devil would pluck away some believers before they took root?

Did He not say that some would receive the Word with joy and then die for lack of depth?

Did He not tell us that the cares and riches of this world would choke out some?

Why then should we be surprised to find some believers less than they should be?

He also said that tares and wheat should grow together until the day the angels come and separate the tares from the wheat. Tares look like wheat until harvest. The tares should not be separated from the wheat lest you uproot the wheat.

The trouble with removing hypocrites is that you knock down ten sinners hiding behind him. Did He not say that the net would be full of both bad and good fish until the end of the world? Then the carp will be separated from the bass.

Yes, the teachings of Christ abound with proof that hypocrites would be in the Church.

**THIRDLY** – Jesus warned us against hypocrites in the Church. Didn't He tell us to beware of wolves in sheep's clothing? Does He not warn of those who devour widow's houses? Does He not warn of those who compass land and sea only to make their converts twofold the children of hell than themselves? Does He not warn of those who tithe of mint and anise but forget the weightier matters of the Law? Did He not put a woe upon those white sepulchers that are full of dead men's bones? Or what of those who shine the tombstones of the prophets but do not obey the prophets' words? Yes, Jesus knows the hypocrisy of religious men.

**FOURTHLY** – Jesus cautions believers against the practice of hypocrisy. He tells us to beware that we do not let the leaven of hypocrisy in us. He tells us not to give our tithes for the praise of men. He tells us when we fast to do it privately. He tells us when we share not to let our left hand know what the right hand is doing. Jesus warned us of the subtlety of this sin and does not want it to be in His followers.

**FIFTHLY** – The early Church had hypocrites. Didn't Corinth have an incestuous man? Were not some of the brethren going to court with one another? The Church at Thessalonica had those who refused to work. Ananias and Sapphira were hypocrites in their giving. They wanted to eat their cake and have it, too.

Simon, the sorcerer had been a great wizard before he was converted. When he saw a chance to be someone special in the Church he tried to purchase power to give the Holy Spirit. Diotrefes loved the preeminence and would not let others teach. Why then should we expect a Church today to be free from hypocrites?

**SIXTHLY** – Commonsense would have us expect hypocrites in the Church. Sinners need a cloak to hide behind. It is obvious that the Church is an excellent cloak for those who desire to deceive. Men only counterfeit things of value. Men counterfeit dollars, not pennies. One never sees hypocrite Masons, Odd Fellows, or Moose.

I never knew there to be a counterfeit Masonic Lodge but there are many counterfeit churches. Whoever heard of a counterfeit member of the Moose? But oh, how many false Christians there are.

Hypocrisy is the compliment that vice pays to virtue. We should expect hypocrites to be among us. There are always henpecked husbands who go to church to please the wife. There are many kids who are hypocrites and hide their sin from parents by Church attendance. Yes, commonsense should cause us to expect hypocrites.

But are hypocrites all bad? No! I could wish there were a few more.

I Wish:

- × Those who are openly practicing their immorality were hypocrites and doing it secretly.
- × The porno pushers were hypocrites and would do it where kids couldn't see it.
- × The abortionists would steal away to the big city and have it done privately instead of trying to get everyone else to pay for their sin.
- × It were still thought that someone sinned when divorce occurred.
- × The homosexuals would shut off their stream of dirty propaganda on the airwaves.
- × They would go back in their closets.
- × Those who have sex changes would stop their boasting and be ashamed.
- × Sin was hidden a little more and the blasphemers would go back into hiding their damnable lies.
- × We could go back to women blushing and men apologizing for a slipped phrase.

I mourn for the good old days of hypocrisy when sin was hid. There are too many hypocrites in the Church we are told. Oh! I wish that there were more of them hiding their sin instead of openly being in rebellion to God.

What this country needs is a good five-cent hypocrite! Well did Isaiah say, "Woe unto you for you declare your sin like Sodom." When sin can run around naked without the cloak of religion, a nation is ready for the judgement of God.

But a word to the hypocrite: it was good for you had you not been born. There is coming a day when purifying is coming. There is a day when nothing covered shall not be revealed or hid and not be made known. That which is spoken in darkness will be shouted from the rooftops. God has a place for hypocrites. The unfaithful servant is going to have his portion with the hypocrites. It's a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth. **Matthew 24:46-51, Luke 12:1-3** Your deceit will not hold up in the judgement.

I read of some privates in the army who were impersonating the officers. The officers then agreed not to wear their uniforms one evening. It was simple to arrest all in officer's' uniforms to catch the impersonators.

Someday friend, if you're playing the part of the Christian, you're going to be exposed as an impersonator. It won't be a pleasant thing to be cast out of God's presence into outer darkness.

But a word to those who won't come to Christ because of the hypocrites. Which is better, to go to Church with some of them or to hell with all of them? You say you don't want to go where they are, yet make no preparation to avoid the place where they all are eventually going to be.

If a man stands between you and God, he is closer to God than you are. Not only so, but if you are going to hide behind the hypocrite you must be smaller than he is.

You go to a lodge with them. You go to ballgames with them. But you can't go to church with them! I wonder who really is a hypocrite?

Maybe you ought to come to church and show us what a Christian really is. Maybe we need an example. I know of no better place for hypocrites than the Church. It is there that he will hear his sin of hypocrisy condemned. The Church never made him a hypocrite anymore than a school makes men illiterate. Counterfeits imply realities. The fact that there are counterfeits proves there is something to Christianity. Maybe you better not cast out the wheat with the chaff.

Did you ever notice people who use the excuse about hypocrites always comparing themselves to the worse Church member? Not many compare themselves to the Apostle Paul! Not many compare themselves to Stephen! No, they choose some potsherd or broken pottery overlaid with gold and then says that they would prefer to be a common cup.

I am reminded of the story of the old bum that came to town with patches all over his suit. There were colored patches over the front of his outfit and one little patch in the middle of his back. When asked what they were he said that the large patches are the sins of his neighbors. He let each patch stand for some sin of each of his neighbors. When asked what the little patch in the back was for he said, "That's my sin and I can't see it."

I am afraid that this is the problem with those who use the excuse about hypocrites. If you have been using that excuse of "too many hypocrites" you might as well come too. There is always room for one more. If you ever find the perfect Church, don't join it cause you will spoil it.

Hypocrisy is a sin. We should expect hypocrites in the Church and the hypocrites who hide behind them. It is not by driving away others that we can be alone with God.

## An Encouraging Message:

*"Hello George, A note to let you know the check is in the mail. ☺ When this was brought before the congregation, it was received with wholehearted zeal. The work of Summit and those involved are greatly appreciated and desperately needed. Thank you all for your labor and service to our Lord.*  
—Garrell Florence"

## Summit Resident Hall:

We began on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011 to renovate the first or our two Resident Halls. Over \$90,000.00 from 12 states have been given for renovation. We thank Brother Florence and his congregation for their unsolicited gift.

What an encouragement it was to us here at Summit!

## Dear Brother Faull,

The Bible says in **Numbers 26:65** that only Joshua and Caleb entered into the Promised Land. Why do some people say that more entered in?

### ANSWER:

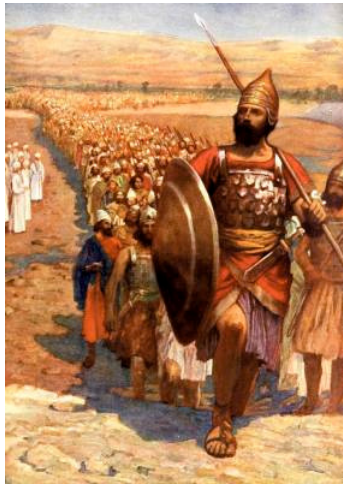
It is true; the Bible does state that Joshua and Caleb were the only ones who entered into Canaan who were over twenty years of age. **Numbers 26:2**, "Take the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, **from twenty years old and upward**, throughout their fathers' house, all that are able to go to war in Israel."

However, the Levites were not included under the curse of dying in the wilderness for three reasons:

1. **They had no land inheritance given to them among Israel.** **Numbers 26:62-65**, "62 And those that were numbered of them were twenty and three thousand, all males from a month old and upward: for they were not numbered among the children of Israel, because there was no inheritance given them among the children of Israel. 63 These are they that were numbered by Moses and Eleazar the priest, who numbered the children of Israel in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho. 64 But among these **there was not a man of them whom Moses and Aaron the priest numbered, when they numbered the children of Israel in the wilderness of Sinai.** 65 For the LORD had said of them, They shall surely die in the wilderness. And there was not left a man of them, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun."
2. **They had sent no spies in to spy out the land.** **Numbers 13:3-16**, "3 And Moses by the commandment of the LORD sent them from the wilderness of Paran: all those men were heads of the children of Israel. 4 And these were their names: of the tribe of Reuben, Shammua the son of Zaccur. 5 Of the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat the son of Hori. 6 Of the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh. 7 Of the tribe of Issachar, Igal the son of Joseph. 8 Of the tribe of Ephraim, Oshea the son of Nun. 9 Of the tribe of Benjamin, Palti the son of Raphu. 10 Of the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel the son of Sodi. 11 Of the tribe of Joseph, namely, of the tribe of Manasseh, Gaddi the son of Susi. 12 Of the tribe of Dan, Ammiel the son of Gemalli. 13 Of

the tribe of Asher, Sethur the son of Michael. 14 Of the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi the son of Vophsi. 15 Of the tribe of Gad, Geuel the son of Machi. 16 These are the names of the men which Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Oshea the son of Nun Jehoshua."

3. **They were not numbered with Israel.** **Numbers 14:29**, "Your carcases shall fall in this wilderness; and **all that were numbered of you**, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me,"



**Numbers 1:43-47**, "43 Those that were numbered of them, even of the tribe of Naphtali, were fifty and three thousand and four hundred. 44 These are those that were numbered, which Moses and Aaron numbered, and the princes of Israel, being twelve men: each one was for the house of his fathers. 45 So were all those that were numbered of the children of Israel, by the house of their fathers, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war in Israel; 46 Even all they that were numbered were six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty. 47 **But the Levites after the tribe of their fathers were not numbered among them.**"

Now the proof was that we have rightly understood the above, is shown in the lives of:

1. **Ithamar, Eleazar, and Phinehas; the sons and grandson of Aaron.**
2. **Nadab and Abihu, two of Aaron's sons, were killed for rebellion during Moses' life.** **Exodus 28:1, 9**, "1 And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons. 9 And thou shalt take two onyx stones, and grave on them the names of the children of Israel:"

Eleazar and Ithamar, their brothers, saw them die. All of these were ordained priests who had to be 25 years of age. At that time, Moses was 80 years old. Moses was 120 when he died. Both Eleazar and Ithamar entered into the Promised Land, and they had to be over 65 years of age, yet they did not die in the wilderness.

Phinehas, the grandson of Aaron and the oldest son of Eleazar, did an outstanding thing during Moses' lifetime, in the slaying of the man and

women who were committing adultery before the holy tabernacle.

**Numbers 25:7-8**, “And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand; 8 And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel.”

This happened before the spies were sent into Canaan to spy out the land. Phinehas also entered into the Promised Land.

It is evident from this that besides Joshua and Caleb, these three men who were over 20 years of age also entered the Promised Land. In fact, it is possible that other Levites over 20 years of age also may have entered into the Promised Land.

I hope this helps to see how carefully we must read the Scriptures to find all truth. One must not only read a verse, but the context, as well.



## Dear Brother Faull,



I heard a brother quote **Psalms 58:3** to prove we are totally depraved and born in sin and babies are lost. “The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies.”

### ANSWER:

× As sheep we were not born away from the fold of God. We went astray and need to return to the Shepherd.

**Isaiah 53:6**, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

**I Peter 2:25**, “For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.”

× We were not born prodigal sons. We left our Father and became prodigal sons. **Luke 15**

× If we were born totally depraved, we were born like the devil. (But remember, we must become converted and be as little children for “of such” is the

Kingdom of Heaven.) What? Little depraved sinners make up the Kingdom of Heaven?

**Matthew 18:3**, “And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

**Luke 18:16**, “But Jesus called them *unto him*, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.”

× When we are born we go astray. Which way? Do we go astray “toward Satan?” (Then we are born Holy, like God.)

Do we go astray “toward God?” (Surely one cannot go astray toward God. Obviously, then we were not born depraved like Satan.)

**CONCLUSION: James 1:13-15**, “13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

As the innocent child begins to be tempted of his own lusts he is “drawn away” and enticed and then he sins and finally becomes dead in sin. If it is wrong to say that God tempts us, how much more to say God created us as little, totally depraved sinners? Indeed, Calvinists say of children that they “are corrupt by nature in all faculties of their being and there is not one good thing in them but are bent on sin from conception and incapable of one good thought or action in the sight of God.”

To go astray from total depravity could only be “toward God”. Imagine, going toward God being called “going astray”.

**Psalms 58:3** is a hyperbole to show that men are indeed sinners. What is a hyperbole? An overstatement, a figure of speech in which something is said for emphasis, an extreme exaggeration for emphasis to impress the hearer or reader of a truth. Examples: I’m so hungry I could eat a horse. He ate everything in the house. I’d give my right arm for a pizza.

So, likewise, to impress upon us that men are sinners, we are told we go astray as soon as we are born, speaking lies. (Obviously, a newborn cannot speak.) “In sin, did my mother conceive me” is a hyperbole that David used to confess that he was indeed a sinner. **Psalms 51**.

Some say, “I’ve been a Christian since I was born” or “I was born a Christian.” These statements are used to emphasize they were raised in the Church since childhood. Do not let these hyperbole’s of Scripture lead you into the false conclusion of Calvinism that we were born sinners when it is really just a confession that we are in fact sinners. We have gone astray from God because we have yielded to our own desires.

# Summit's Resident Hall Updates

Construction Continues as we move towards our Fall 2012 Grand Opening!



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Resident Hall #1 - Picture as of October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011