

Tattoo art

Biblical overview

1. Read 1 Corinthians 3: 6 and 1 Corinthians 6:19. What are these verses saying about our bodies? How should we treat our body?
2. Read Psalm 139:13-16 and Genesis 1:26 How much do you think God cares about your body?
3. Read 1 Samuel 16:7 and Matthew 23:27-28. What is God looking for in us?
4. Read Proverbs 8:13 and Proverbs 16:18. What do you think could be some of the motives for getting a tattoo?

Tattoos and toxic substances

The price of ignorance

Although allergic reactions to permanent tattoos are considered rare given the number of tattoos applied yearly, they can occur, along with scarring, phototoxic reactions (i.e., reactions from exposure to light, especially sunlight), and other adverse effects. Many people have reported reactions to the intensely coloured plastic-based pigments. There are also pigments that glow in the dark or in response to black (ultraviolet) light. Some of these pigments may be safe, but others are toxic and even possibly radioactive. Plastic-based inks (e.g., glow-in-the-dark ink) have led to polymerization under the skin, where the tattoo pigment particles converged into one solid piece under the skin.

Allergic reactions have occurred with some of the many metals put into tattoo inks, nickel being one of the most common metal allergies. Others have reacted to the mercury in red cinnabar, to cobalt blue, and to cadmium sulphite when used as a yellow pigment. Some inks were found to have high levels of lead, some contained lithium, and the blue inks were full of copper. Allergic reactions may occur infrequently with permanent tattoos, but the long-term health effects are still unknown due to the lack of regulation, testing, and long-term studies.

http://www.naturalnews.com/022073_tattoos_health_risks.html

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The effects of mercury

Many people are not aware of the extreme danger of mercury when it is no longer contained in a thermometer or air-tight container. All mercury spills, regardless of quantity, should be treated seriously. Metallic mercury slowly evaporates when exposed to the air. The air in a room can reach contamination levels just from the mercury in a broken thermometer - just a few drops.

When liquid mercury is spilled, it forms droplets that can accumulate in the tiniest of spaces and then emit vapors. Health problems caused by mercury depend on how much has entered your body, how it entered your body, how long you have been exposed to it, and how your body responds to it.

The symptoms of mercury poisoning can include:

- impairment of peripheral vision
- disturbances in sensations - that 'pins and needles' feeling as well as numbness - usually in the hands feet and sometimes around the mouth
- lack of coordination of movements, such as writing
- impairment of speech, hearing, walking
- muscle weakness
- skin rashes
- mood swing, memory loss, and mental disturbances

Coming into contact with too much mercury this way can damage a growing brain, harming the way unborn and young children will be able to think and learn. It can also harm anyone's heart, kidneys, lungs, and immune system.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/5762.php>

Activities

1. List some of the general health risks associated with tattoos?
2. Three toxic heavy metals are listed in the first article as ingredients in the tattooing process. These are mercury, cadmium and lead, the most dangerous being mercury. Because mercury clings to fat cells, it can remain in your body for life. Read the second article and list some of the symptoms associated with mercury toxicity.
3. Use the internet to research some of the toxic side-effects of lead and cadmium. Make a list for each.

What Would Jesus Say?

4. If our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, do you think it is right to take safety risks associated with the administration of tattoos?
5. Some people abuse their bodies with drugs. Is there a difference? Give reason.
6. What do you think of Christian tattoo "art"? Large segments of Scripture or copies of paintings like "The Last Supper" are permanently marked onto the body of some folk. Leviticus 19:28 says, "Do not cut your bodies...or put tattoo marks on

yourselves.” A wide-range of modern Christians now believe that this passage speaks only to emblems and not their own faith. They take no shame in wearing body art that illustrates their beliefs. Some people feel the imagery is a constant reminder of the divine and makes them feel closer to God. But there has been strong argument across history about whether believers should have a tattoo with the majority arguing it is not a good practice. Give your opinion.

7. Considering that Victoria Beckham, Madonna and Brittany Spears have Hebrew lettering or Biblical words/text on their bodies, do you think that a Christian displaying a tattoo will be provide a good form of evangelism? Can you think of better methods of evangelism? Give your opinion.
8. Most people like to buy different clothes each year because they get tired of the old ones. What problems could arise for a person who got a tattoo, but further down the track decided they no longer wanted it?
9. What do you think Jesus would say about a Christian who chooses to have a tattoo?

