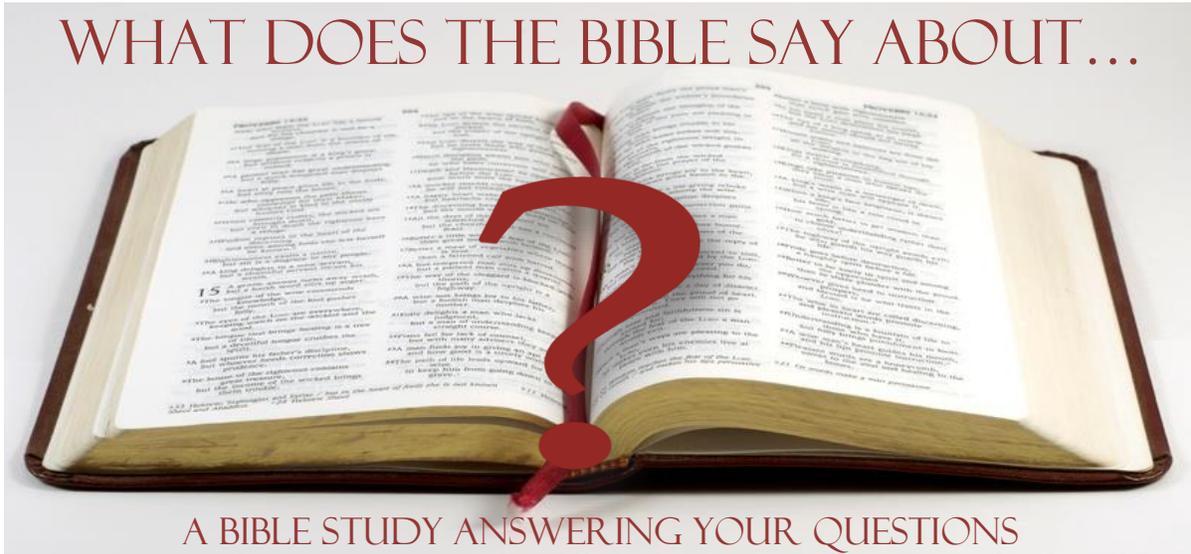


# WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT...



## A BIBLE STUDY ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

### Lesson 4

I want to thank you for the questions you are submitting. Please understand that in answering your questions I may show you something that reveals what you have done in the past or are doing now is wrong. Or, I may help you to see light on a subject you've never understood before. However, I also want you to know that we love all of you. Regardless of what you've done in the past. These lessons are about the future... So if you see life changes that you need to make, that's good. We are not condemning anyone. We are doing our best to reveal Biblical truth.

### **Does sin involve demonic activity, or is sin the result of demonic activity?**

Most of the time - NO.

It can be, especially with habitual sin, drug, or alcohol addictions, occult practices, etc..., but most sin, by far, is birthed out of our sinful nature.

### **Sin is a result of our fallen nature.**

**Psalm 51:5** Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**1 Corinthians 15:22** For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

**Romans 5:14** Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

**1 John 3:9** Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

**Romans 7:14-25** <sup>14</sup> For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. <sup>15</sup> For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. <sup>16</sup> If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that *it is* good. <sup>17</sup> Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. <sup>18</sup> For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not. <sup>19</sup> For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. <sup>21</sup> I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: <sup>23</sup> But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. <sup>24</sup> O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? <sup>25</sup> I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

What Paul is saying is: "I try to live right but I find myself doing things I know I shouldn't do."

**Romans 5:12** Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Because of Adam's sin, we have inherited his nature; Sinful nature.

**Romans 6:2** God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

If you've given your life to God, do your best not to sin.

**Romans 6:6** Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

**Romans 6:12** Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

**Romans 6:13** Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

**Romans 6:16** Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

We do not have to be servants to sin any longer.

**James 1:15** Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

People who do not repent or obey the Gospel are lost.

**2 Peter 2:9-14** <sup>9</sup> The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: <sup>10</sup> But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous *are they*, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. <sup>11</sup> Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord. <sup>12</sup> But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; <sup>13</sup> And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots *they are* and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; <sup>14</sup> Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

**Ephesians 2:3** Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

**Romans 3:23** For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

### **Sin and demonic possession / influence:**

**Mark 9:17-25** <sup>17</sup> And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; <sup>18</sup> And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not. <sup>19</sup> He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me. <sup>20</sup> And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. <sup>21</sup> And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. <sup>22</sup> And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst

do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. <sup>23</sup> Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things *are* possible to him that believeth. <sup>24</sup> And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. <sup>25</sup> When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, *Thou* dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.

Demonic involvement / influence is real.

Sinful habits like drugs and alcohol, when it seems like a person cannot get free, it's very likely that a demonic spirit is involved; the person needs deliverance.

Satan can plant a thought/temptation, and thus a person falls into sin.

**1 Corinthians 10:13** There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

**James 1:12** Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

### **Tattoos and Piercings**

The question, "How come tattoos and piercings are looked down upon?"

First, the reason I believe tattoos and piercings are looked down upon is that people in general, even people in the world, think that excessive decoration is prideful, showy, boastful, and that instead of it being attractive, its distractive.

I hope our church doesn't make anyone feel shunned or rejected, if someone did these things. If so, shame on us. We desire to reach out in love and mercy. We must also reveal Biblical truth and hopefully you will see it.

**Leviticus 19:28** 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 (NKJV)** You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor tattoo any marks on you: I *am* the LORD.

**Leviticus 19:28 (NRSV)** You shall not make any gashes in your flesh for the dead or tattoo any marks upon you: I am the LORD.

This is the one verse in the Bible that deals directly with the subject of tattoos. There are several verses that deal with piercings; I will share those with you as well later in the lesson.

There are also other verses that deal with your body being the temple of the Holy Ghost and that we ought to glorify God in our body.

Why do you want to get a tattoo / piercing?

What is the reason?

Is it to beautify your body, get attention, or align with a group or belief? For what reason or why are you doing it?

The big question in light of walking with God is - does it give glory to God?

If you are considering the question - "To tattoo or not to?", I think the more serious questions to ask yourself are: What are my motives for wanting a tattoo? Am I seeking to glorify God or draw attention to myself? Will my tattoo be a source of contention for my loved ones? Will getting a tattoo cause me to disobey my parents? Will my tattoo cause someone who is weak in the faith to stumble? And will I regret doing this years from now?

Think of it like this, you get a tattoo with your girlfriend's/boyfriend's name on it, and you break up, then you do that several more times... What do you do, cross off the old names?

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** - What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

**1 Corinthians 10:31** - Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

**1 Corinthians 6:13** - Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body [is] not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.

**1 Corinthians 3:16** - Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and [that] the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

**Here are four important verses that help us to look at the Scriptural reasons for which we do things:**

1. "Do NOT think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did NOT come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled." (Matthew 5:17-18)
2. "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16)
3. "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Corinthians 6:19)
4. "If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are." (1 Corinthians 3:17)

**Tattooing Has Witchcraft "Roots":**

In addition to the above verses, Scripture also warns us not to disfigure our bodies in following verses:

And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them. 1 Kings 18:28

Ye are the sons of the LORD your God; you shall not cut yourselves, nor make any baldness on your foreheads for the dead. Deuteronomy 14:1

When it speaks here about doing this in relation to the dead; this was a witchcraft rite done to mourn or remember their dead. Therefore tattooing, cutting one's body and shaving one's head in defiance have their origin in witchcraft practices.

Many young people today are doing these very things because of some evil witchcraft influences in their lives that they are unaware of. They do not realize that partaking of these things can open the door to wrong and defiling influences in their lives. Evil videos, depraved rock music, wicked internet games and violent movies are displaying evil trends in order to destroy our youth.

Satanic tattoos, skin heads and other cultic rites are opening many of our children to demonization.

This is what makes it spiritually dangerous for people. People do not realize displaying a satanic mark or symbol can open the door for Satanic attacks which allows the enemy entrance in their lives. It is not the mark itself, but rather the sin behind it. Today this practice is growing because of the spread of False Religions. Some people are so hideously covered with tattoos that their appearances look evil. Others, only have small tattoos that they believe are trendy or artistic.

In light of the above verses and comments, we do teach against tattooing or marking your body.

***A more detailed lesson was done by Sis. Marie Brown and is attached to this lesson for your study. She did a really good job on it, I recommend you read it.***

### **Piercings:**

**Deuteronomy 15:17** - Then thou shalt take an awl, and thrust [it] through his ear unto the door, and he shall be thy servant for ever. And also unto thy maidservant thou shalt do likewise.

Originally, piercings had a lot to do with slavery. Early on in the Old Testament, when a person was a servant or slave, OT law told owners of slaves that they were to free their slaves after 6 years. **Exodus 21:1-4**

If the servant loved his/her master and wanted to stay with them, the master would take them to a door post and thrust an awl through the ear, "marking" them as a "love slave". The servant could remain a slave for the rest of their lives.

So, piercings were a sign of willing/voluntary slavery.

Many of the OT verses that deal with "earrings" are actually revealing that Israel, the people of God, took earrings as "spoils" from countries they invaded. The people of God did not originally have or use earrings. It wasn't until the heathen nations around them influenced them.

Here are several verses that teach against "piercings":

Signs of Slavery: Ex. 21:5-6, Deut. 15:17

Never the Israelites but from other countries: Judges 8:24, Ex. 35:22, Ex. 32:1-10, Gen. 35:4

Pagan Worship: Lev. 19:26 - 31, 1 Tim. 2:9, Deut. 14:1

**Isaiah 3:16-21** Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet: <sup>17</sup> Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will discover their secret parts. <sup>18</sup> In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of *their* tinkling ornaments *about their feet*, and *their* cauls, and *their* round tires like the moon, <sup>19</sup> The chains, and the bracelets, and the mufflers, <sup>20</sup> The bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the earrings, <sup>21</sup> The rings, and nose jewels,

When you study the Old Testament you clearly see, when God's people backslid, they started wearing jewelry. When they were called to repentance, they took it off: Gen. 35:4, Exodus 35:22.

**Deuteronomy 7:25** The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to the LORD thy God.

This clearly shows that piercings and jewelry have a way of getting between you and God.

Today, people are doing piercings in all kind of places, it would be inappropriate to talk about... Suffice it to say, piercing and the subsequent jewelry attached, is motivated in or rooted in pride.

**Proverbs 16:18** Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

### **Tithing:**

The comment/question is: "Sometimes we give our tithe without our name on it, we feel like we are keeping it 'between us and Jesus'."

There is Scriptural basis for feeling that way.

**Matthew 6:1-4** <sup>1</sup> Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. <sup>2</sup> Therefore when thou doest *thine* alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. <sup>3</sup> But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: <sup>4</sup> That

thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

Based on these verses, here's what we have to understand:

1. We don't give to be "showy" or so that people see us.
2. We are giving to God, to support His church, and the work of God.
3. I recommend using tithe envelopes for a few reasons:
  1. So you can keep track of your giving to be sure you have tithed appropriately.
  2. So you can take the tax deduction if it's available to you.
  3. It helps church leadership get the pulse of people's spiritual conditions. One of the first things people cut out when they are getting "spiritually cold" is tithing. So, it helps me see how you are doing spiritually.

In the time Jesus taught this principle, rich people would make great efforts to "show off". They would have their servants carry big baskets full of their offerings... People would look on and admire the gifts and the giver.

Today when we receive offerings, this is not the case, so I recommend using envelopes and putting your name on it.