

Answers with The Bishop

September 2018

Concerning Gods people (Christians) about tattoos. Are we to have them placed on our bodies as the world is doing? The old and young are doing this. (Lev 19:28)

Leviticus 19 doesn't address tattoos as they are used today, however I believe other scriptures can help those who seek to please God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength.

ESV Romans 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

The OT says allot about offering God sacrifices without **blemish**, we know Christ is our spotless Lamb, however once we're saved our bodies don't belong to us!

GWN 1 Corinthians 6:19 Don't you know that your body is a temple that belongs to the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit, whom you received from God, lives in you. You don't belong to yourselves.

KJV 1 Corinthians 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

One might argue tattoos are body graffiti that defile the Temple of God!

ESV Psalm 139:14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

If I believe this then I don't seek to improve on how God has created me!

GWN 1 Corinthians 10:31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything to the glory of God.

Can you please clarify why the church is divided on women in ministry and in the position as pastors? The qualifications are specific to the husband of one wife, not the wife of one husband. (1 Tim 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9)

This is a very good question and very complex! The Bible is very clear on the status of women.

First a man called to the office of Pastor/Bishop should be married to one woman, Solomon had many wives and they influenced him to sin as Eve influenced Adam.

The role of women in ministry is also not so cut and dry because of the fallen nature of man!

NIV 1 Timothy 2:12 I do not permit (maybe others did) a woman to teach or to

13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve;

14 and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.

^{GWN} *Ephesians 5:22 Wives, place yourselves under your husbands' authority as you have placed yourselves under the Lord's authority.*

23 The husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. It is his body, and he is its Savior.

^{ESV} *1 Corinthians 11:3 But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.*

According to the apostle Paul **women** should not have leadership roles over **men** in the church. That every **husband** should be the spiritual leader in his home and this should carry over to the church.

However, we have seen in scripture when a man is not in his proper place God will use whomever He wills including women to lead.

Deborah the prophetess lead Israel for a season! Her husband was Lapidoth (meaning torch) and the commander of the army Barak (meaning lightning).

Barak was commander, yet he was fearful, Deborah rebukes him (Judges 4:6-7).

In the NT we have Phoebe, Priscilla and Aquila-her named mentioned first and Phillips 4 daughters who were prophets.

God will use women to do what men refuse or are afraid to do!

^{ESV} *Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Paul says these title, distinctions and limitations are done away with in Christ!

God has a divine order in place, yet when mankind rebels God has the sovereign right and power to use and do whatever He chooses, that's why He's God

Can you please explain Mal 3:10? I get into debates with people saying that it is an Old Testament scripture and we under grace and use 2 Cor 9:7. I believe the entire bible and I tithe off gross income. That is another debate whether to tithe off gross or net. Uncle Sam gets his taxes off gross! I believe it comes down to your personal relationship with God and putting your faith and trust in God. Are you going to trust him or not? Bottom line! Thank you.

Tithing supersedes The Law & Grace because tithing was instituted before The Law in **Gen 14:20** Abram gave tithes to Melchizedek a type of Christ before The Law came.

Tithing is a **kingdom principle** not based on Old or New Testament dispensations.

The act of tithing demonstrates our knowledge of **Jesus our High Priest**—the One who stands between God and the world bringing us together in holy communion.

Paul says in **1 Cor 9** believers should give **offerings** from their heart! I believe this is after the **tithe** since the tithe Abram gave was from his heart and not based on a Law or command. The text doesn't say Abram was asked to give the tithe!

^{ESV} Matthew 23:23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others."

Jesus, Jesus says people should **tithe** and not neglect the weightier **more important** matters of Kingdom living—justice, mercy and faithfulness!

Where was the Holy Spirit prior to Pentecost? He is mentioned in Genesis 1 and again when Jesus was baptized, but what was his purpose prior to Jesus's death/resurrection?

It's true The Holy Spirit is not directly mentioned much in the OT; however, He was still very active in the earth influencing and empowering God's people.

While Israel was in the wilderness The Holy Spirit led them and fed them!

^{KJV} Nehemiah 9:20 Thou gavest also thy good spirit to instruct them, and withheldest not thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst.

David prayed in **Ps 51:11** after repenting from sin that God The Father would not Take His Holy Spirit from him.

David understood it was The Holy Spirit (by way of the anointing of Samuel) upon his life that gave him **skill in battle**, **ability to rebuke demons** and **the wisdom to lead God's people** as king. (anointing men and women for service).

David wrote about The Holy Spirit in Psalm 139; saying He searches every part of David and knows him completely.

4 Even before there is a single word on my tongue, you know all about it, LORD.

^{KJV} Psalm 139:7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy

Holy Spirit's purpose in the earth is the same as it has been from the beginning!
To inhabit man so God can live through them and His glory fill the whole earth.

^{GWN} **Ezekiel 36:23** *I will reveal the holiness of my great name, which has been dishonored by the nations, the name that you have dishonored among them. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, because I will reveal my holiness among you as they watch, declares the Almighty LORD.*

26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you. I will remove your stubborn hearts and give you obedient hearts.

27 I will put my Spirit in you. I will enable you to live by my laws, and you will obey my rules.

Since the time of Jesus 2,000 years ago, many generations have come and gone. With that said, Jesus stated in Matthew 24:34 ...This generation shall not pass, till all things be fulfilled. A generation is 40 years. The generation of Jesus's day 2,000 years ago has long passed away. To what generation was this message intended for, because it doesn't seem possible for Him to be speaking to the people of that area? Same Question applied to Matthew 16:28 "Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom."

When Jesus said, "*this generation shall not pass till all these things be fulfilled.*"

He was referring to that **generation** He speaking to and that **race** of people to whom He was speaking!

The **Kingdom of God is NOW and NOT YET** is concept that says some aspects of The Kingdom are in effect now, while other parts are to come.

Some of what Jesus said came to pass during that time frame, while other parts are yet to come.

Concerning **Matt 16:28** *Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.*"

Some of the disciples saw Jesus transfigured on Mt. Hermon, where Moses and Elijah appeared talking with Jesus **Matt 17** six days later.

Luke 9:31 tells us they talked with Jesus about His death and what it would accomplish at Jerusalem

While still living they saw the glorified Jesus in a preview of His coming Kingdom!

^{KJV} **Ecclesiastes 3:15** *That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.*