

# T Training For Guys

## Is it ok to get a Tatt?

I have to say that wasn't the first question I was expecting! And I don't think I can give just a short answer to it either. But here goes...

Tattoos are very much in fashion at the moment. Do you just want one as a fashion statement? If so it's not a good idea, fashions change but tattoos are permanent.

There's only one verse in the Bible that mentions tattoos (Leviticus 19:28) and it says don't do it. So that's that then. Well, no, actually.

If you read Leviticus it says lots of things we no longer abide by. It's a set of rules to make you a good Jew. It includes circumcision for instance, and most readers of this are not circumcised and would not want to be - however much they love the Lord. This particular verse about tattoos is referencing the way pagan religions around Israel cut themselves and marked themselves as part of their worship. God wanted them to serve Him differently. Obeying the Levitical laws was part of the way Israel declared it was set apart for God and holy. The New Testament gives us a different way of approaching holiness. We have the Holy Spirit, and are not bound by the rules of the Law (Colossians 2:14). If you'd like more on how we should read books like Leviticus, let me know! Let's look at the tattoos question in a different way. I know that if I had had a tattoo in my twenties it is very unlikely that the image or sentiment it expressed would still be something I wanted on my body thirty years later. I have changed my views on things, changed the things I am interested in and seen my likes and dislikes change too. Can you be sure that you will still want that tattoo in thirty years time?

"But it's going to be about God, as a witness" you say. I'd still say think very carefully about it. I know a man who used to sing a song which said "You can't touch me, for Jesus has saved me" - in effect declaring Satan's power was limited. Yet Satan got him with temptation, ruined his marriage and the man no longer walks with Jesus. I have a feeling that even if the tattoo is under your shirt and no-one ever sees it, the enemy will mark you for extra target practice. So don't get one lightly.

[more overleaf](#)



## Weaknesses and Strengths

Did you know that your weaknesses are probably part of your strengths too? They are often flip sides of the same coin.

For instance, a footballer (😊) might be a fantastic dribbler. He can run with the ball for the length of the field and not get tackled and lose it. But at the same time he holds onto it too long most times, doesn't pass and the team end up not benefiting from his strength. He's so good at being with the ball that he forgets he needs to pass it.

Sometimes we get bogged down by our weaknesses and worry that we are just failing to live Godly lives. But it may simply be that we need to consider how those weaknesses are a reflection of some of our strengths too, and see if there is a way of turning them into victory.

Do you know what your weaknesses are? What about your strengths? Try to list some of each. If you find it hard alone, why not do it with some close friends and list each others? (We can probably do our own weaknesses better, and other people's strengths are more obvious than our own). Then see if you can draw lines to match the weaknesses with the strengths. If you can see such links pray about how to work towards turning the things you perceive as weaknesses to work for the good.

In the end, though, we also need to learn to rejoice in our weakness. *But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'* Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. (2 Corinthians 12:9). Remember God did not remove Paul's "thorn in the flesh" because He wanted him to know that God's grace 'was sufficient' to cover all Paul's weakness and sin.

It's easy to allow ourselves to be defeated because we think we should be strong and able to overcome temptation, failure, sin, etc. Instead we need to come to God knowing that in Christ Jesus there is no condemnation (Romans 8:1) and that we are made right in His sight by what Jesus has done, not by what we are like.

## This week's podcast is Colossians 1 vv 15 - 23.

It's a description of Jesus. I love the phrase "He is the image of the invisible God". If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus.

Just as we cannot see light, for it is invisible, we get to understand the quality of light by looking at what it shines on.

We see the character of God by seeing Jesus, and how He reacts in different circumstances.

Those who don't know God, how do they see what He is like? By looking at the Body of Christ today... that's you and me.

"We are the image of the invisible God" in our world today.

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## Tattoos...continued

Infact, your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19) so a definite starting point would be to pray. Does *Jesus* want this tattoo? And if He is saying yes, what does *He* want it to look like or say?

Another point to consider is that tattoos fade. Look at a few tattooed men in their later life, the tattoo that looked great on young skin might not be so good later...so



choose the design carefully!

I think I would make my strongest recommendation that you do nothing about getting a tattoo for at least a year. Pray about it over that time, decide definitely

on what the tattoo would be during that time but do nothing.

Perhaps get the design printed on a t-shirt and wear it about, making sure you feel comfortable displaying it in public. After a year or so, if you still feel it's the right thing to do .. go for it.

There's no definite 'yes' or 'no' answer to this question, but hopefully this has given you something to think and pray about. What do others think? Email me or discuss this in the Facebook group.



The Facebook group linked to these articles is a secret one. Why? Simply so that if you post in the group it is private to other members of the group. It won't appear as an update on a Friend's page *unless they are also a member of the Training for Guys group*. That way you can post or ask questions on that page knowing it will only be seen by other Christian guys also seeking to walk with Jesus.

Feel free to add your Christian friends to the group if you think it will help them.

If you are getting these downloads from the website and not a member of the Facebook group, email me with your FB details and I will add you in.



Neil Armstrong  
1930-2012

Neil Armstrong jumped off a ladder a long way above the earth and survived.

The first man ever to set foot on another part of the solar system, over 40 years ago.

He announced it as '*one small step for (a) man, one giant leap for mankind*'.

This is, perhaps, the most famous photo of him. But look closely and you will see you can't see him at all! Where his face should be is a reflection of other members of the team.

Neil was the man who made the small step, but hundreds were involved in making the giant leap. The project planners, the rocket engineers, the radio operators, the weightlessness scientists and trainers and, finally, the other two team members including Michael Collins who flew to the moon but stayed in the orbiter preparing for the return journey, not setting foot on the moon at all. If Collins had not been prepared for this background, humbler, task then Armstrong and Aldrin would not have been able to land either.

As the Body of Christ, the Church, we should always be team players. Whatever it is that God has called you to do it is very rare if that is not as part of a team of

people. Jesus sent His disciples out in pairs in Luke chapter 10.

You might feel that your role is less important. But the Kingdom is built mostly by those in the background, not the headliners. In Acts, a guy named Philip had a great ministry. He was preaching to large crowds with great success (Acts 8:6). But God told him to leave all this behind and head south into the desert to speak to just one man, an official (ok, a eunuch...I'm not a prude) from Ethiopia. He led this one man to Christ.

We know that Ethiopia was one of the first places where the Church grew and developed. It seems likely the eunuch went home and led many to Christ.

Philip's role had been the humble one, but if he had said "I'll stay here and continue this successful ministry rather than go to the desert" the Ethiopian would not have heard the Good News.

And let's not forget the great work that Albert McMakin did. He asked someone to drive a truck to a meeting. The guy did, and hundreds of thousands have been saved because of it. (If you don't know his story, just google his name).

God is the Team Leader, as team members we must be prepared to play our part, whatever it is. Maybe it is just to organise the transport, like Albert. Maybe it is to be the one who goes down the ladder, like Neil. But it might be to be praying for the headliners, or even 'just' praying for the backroom boys. You have a part in the project...do you know what it is and are you fulfilling it?

God has a habit of using faithful backroom boys for bigger things. Philip, after all, started out organising the food distribution for the widows. And if you are on a mission, make sure that there is a prayer team backing you up every day.

The only thing you have to focus on in your 20s is not getting a bad tattoo. You don't want to be 40 going, "No dude, it was different back then. Everyone loved The Big Bang Theory -- everyone!"