

Whose Mark Do We Bear?

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Introduction

You can tell something about an object by the image that is stamped upon it (Luke 20:20-26). God made man in His own image (Gen. 1:26-27; Psa. 8:3-8), giving us a physical body to inhabit until we are clothed with our heavenly body (1 Cor. 15:47-49; 2 Cor. 5:1-2). Before submitting to the gospel of Jesus Christ, our bodies were the tools of Satan and instruments of sin. However, through obedience to the Lord's will in baptism, we are cleansed from our past sins, and raised to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:3-6, 11-13). Since our bodies are the temple of the living God, we must glorify God in our daily walk (Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 6:19-20).

Luke 20:20-26 ... 20 So they watched Him, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, in order that they might catch Him in some statement, so that they could deliver Him to the rule and the authority of the governor. 21 They questioned Him, saying, "Teacher, we know that You speak and teach correctly, and You are not partial to any, but teach the way of God in truth. 22 "Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" 23 But He detected their trickery and said to them, 24 "Show Me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?" They said, "Caesar's." 25 And He said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." 26 And they were unable to catch Him in a saying in the presence of the people; and being amazed at His answer, they became silent. (NASB95)

Genesis 1:26-27 ... 26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (NASB95)

Psalms 8:3-8 ... 3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained; 4 What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him? 5 Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty! 6 You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, 7 All sheep and oxen, And also the beasts of the field, 8 The birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, Whatever passes through the paths of the seas. (NASB95)

1 Corinthians 15:47-49 ... 47 The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. 48 As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly. (NASB95)

2 Corinthians 5:1-2 ... 1 For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, (NASB95)

Romans 6:3-6 ... 3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; (NASB95)

Romans 6:11-13 ... 11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, 13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. (NASB95)

Romans 12:1-2 ... 1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. (NASB95)

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 ... 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. (NASB95)

Do We Bear The Mark Of The Lord Jesus?

The Greek word *stigma*, derived from *stizō* [to prick], occurring 1x in the NT, refers to “a tattoo, mark, or brand.”

Thomas defines *στίγμα* [*stigma*] as from *stizō* [to prick], meaning “a tattoo mark or brand” [4742b].

BDAG say it refers to a “mark” or “brand.”

Strong/Thayer define *stigma* as “(1) a mark pricked in or branded upon the body. To ancient oriental usage, slaves and soldiers bore the name or the stamp of their master or commander branded or pricked (cut) into their bodies to indicate what master or general they belonged to, and there were even some devotee’s who stamped themselves in this way with the token of their gods” [4742].

W. E. Vine says that it denotes “‘a tattooed mark’ or ‘a mark burnt in, a brand’ (akin to *stizo*, ‘to prick’), translated ‘marks’ in (Gal. 6:17). ‘It is probable that the apostle refers to the physical sufferings he had endured since he began to proclaim Jesus as Messiah and Lord [e. g., at Lystra and Philippi]. It is probable, too, that this reference to his scars was intended to set off the insistence of the Judaizers upon a body-mark which cost them nothing. Over against the circumcision they demanded as a proof of obedience to the law he set the indelible tokens, sustained in his own body, of his loyalty to the Lord Jesus. As to the origin of the figure, it was indeed customary for a master to brand his slaves, but this language does not suggest that the apostle had been branded by His Master. Soldiers and criminals also were branded on occasion; but to neither of these is the case of Paul as here described analogous. The religious devotee branded himself with the peculiar mark of the god whose cult he affected; so was Paul branded with the marks of his devotion to the Lord Jesus. It is true such markings were forbidden by the law, (Lev. 19:28), but then Paul had not inflicted these on himself. The marks of Jesus cannot be taken to be the marks which the Lord bears in His body in consequence of the Crucifixion; they were different in character.”ⁱ

The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia says that *stigma* refers to “‘a mark pricked or branded upon the body.’ Slaves and soldiers, in ancient times, were stamped or branded with the name of their master. Paul considered and called himself the bondsman of Jesus Christ. The traces of his sufferings, scourging, stonings, persecution, wounds, were visible in permanent scars on his body (cf. 2 Cor. 11:23-27). These he termed the stigmata of Jesus, marks branded in his very flesh as proofs of his devotion to his Master (Galatians 6:17).”ⁱⁱ

The Theological Dictionary of the New Testament says that *stigma* means “‘to prick, point, or mark. In the Graeco-Roman World, (1) Owners’ marks are branded on cattle. Stigmata are usually letters burned on the right thigh; (2) People who are branded, e.g., criminals, prisoners of war, slaves, or deserters, are usually regarded as dishonored and are a butt of scorn in comedy. Caligula even has some citizens branded and sent to prison camps. Various devices are tried to remove the brands but without much success. Tattooed signs are placed on army recruits, usually on the hand.”

“In the New Testament, *stigma* occurs only in Galatians 6:17. Paul perhaps views the marks of Jesus here as protective... The marks can hardly be tattooed signs but are almost certainly the scars he has acquired in Christian service (2 Cor. 4:10; Col. 1:24; Phil. 3:21). These are palpable proof that he suffers with the Lord (Rom. 8:17).”ⁱⁱⁱ

Englishman’s Search

This particular Greek word only appears once in the New Testament (Gal. 6:17). In saying, “*From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the *brand-marks of Jesus,*” Paul probably referred to the many scars he bore of his persecutions (cf. 2 Cor. 4:7-12; 11:23-28).

*Galatians 6:17 ... 17 From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the *marks of the Lord Jesus. (KJV)*

*Galatians 6:17 ... 17 From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the *marks of the Lord Jesus. (NKJV)*

*Galatians 6:17 ... 17 Henceforth, let no man trouble me; for I bear branded on my body the *marks of Jesus. (ASV)*

*Galatians 6:17 ... 17 From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the *brand-marks of Jesus. (NASB95)*

2 Corinthians 4:7-12 ... 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; 8 we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So death works in us, but life in you. (NASB95)

2 Corinthians 11:23-28 ... 23 Are they servants of Christ? — I speak as if insane — I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. 24 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. 26 I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; 27 I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. 28 Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches. (NASB95)

Like the apostle Paul, we must be willing to suffer for the cause of Christ (Matt. 5:10-12; John 15:18-21; 1 Pet. 3:13-17).

Matthew 5:10-12 ... 10 "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. 12 "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (NASB95)

John 15:18-21 ... 18 "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. 19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. 20 "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. 21 "But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me. (NASB95)

1 Peter 3:13-17 ... 13 Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, 15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; 16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame. 17 For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong. (NASB95)

We must also be conformed to the image of Christ (Rom. 8:28-30; 13:11-14; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 4:22-24), who is the image of the invisible God (John 14:6-9; 2 Cor. 4:3-4; Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3-4).

Romans 8:28-30 ... 28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. (NASB95)

Romans 13:11-14 ... 11 Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. 12 The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts. (NASB95)

2 Corinthians 3:18 ... 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. (NASB95)

Ephesians 4:22-24 ... 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. (NASB95)

John 14:6-9 ... 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. 7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him." 8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" (NASB95)

Romans 8:28-30 ... 28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For those

whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. (NASB95)

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2 Corinthians 4:3-4 ... 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (NASB95)

Colossians 1:15 ... 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (NASB95)

Hebrews 1:3-4 ... 3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they. (NASB95)

If we do this in time, we shall be similarly blessed in eternity (1 Cor. 15:49; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 John 3:2).

1 Corinthians 15:49 ... 49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly. (NASB95)

Philippians 3:20-21 ... 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. (NASB95)

1 John 3:2 ... 2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. (NASB95)

Do We Bear The Mark Of The Beast?

The Greek word *charagma*, derived from *charassō* [to sharpen, to engrave], refers to “mark that is engraved, imprinted, branded, cut, or stamped.”

Thomas defines *χάραγμα* [charagma] as *charassō* [to sharpen, to engrave], meaning “a stamp, impress” [5480].

BDAG say it refers to “(1) a mark that is engraved, etched, branded, cut, imprinted, mark, stamp; (2) an object fashioned by artistic skill involving alteration of a medium, thing formed, image in the representative arts.”

Strong/Thayer define *charagma* as “(1) a stamp, an imprinted mark; (a) of the mark stamped on the forehead or the right hand as the badge of the followers of the Antichrist; (b) the mark branded upon horses; (2) thing carved, sculpture, graven work, of idolatrous images” [5480].

W. E. Vine says it denotes “‘a stamp, impress,’ translated ‘mark’ in (Rev. 13:16, 17; etc.).”^{iv}

The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia says that *charagma* refers to “‘a stamp’ or ‘imprinted mark.’ ‘The mark of the beast’ (peculiar to Revelation) was the badge of the followers of Antichrist, stamped on the forehead or right hand (Rev. 13:16; compare Ezek. 9:4, 6). It was symbolic of character and was thus not a literal or physical mark, but the impress of paganism on the moral and spiritual life. It was the sign or token of apostasy. As a spiritual state or condition it subjected men to the wrath of God and to eternal torment (Rev. 14:9-11); to noisome disease (Rev. 16:2); to the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20). Those who received not the mark, having faithfully endured persecution and martyrdom, were given part in the first resurrection and lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years (Rev. 20:4). The ‘beast’ symbolizes the anti-Christian empires, particularly Rome under Nero, who sought to devour and destroy the early Christians.”^v

The Theological Dictionary of the New Testament says that it means a “mark” or “stamp.” In the Greek world, “this word denotes an engraved, etched, branded, or inscribed ‘mark’ or ‘sign.’ It can be used for an ‘inscription’ or a ‘stamp,’ e.g., the imperial stamp on decrees. The impress on coins gives it the more general sense of ‘money.’”

“In Revelation 13:11ff. The second beast demands cultic recognition of the image of the first. The mark which is required in vv. 16-17 probably indicates the religious totalitarianism of emperor worship. Marking is common in antiquity (cf. slaves, and the branding of devotees with the marks of deities).”^{vi}

Englishman’s Search

This particular Greek word appears eight times in the NT. Except for Paul's reference to graven images in his sermon on Mars Hill, all other occurrences are in the Book of Revelation (Acts 17:29; Rev. 13:16, 17; 14:9, 11; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4).

*Acts 17:29 ... 29 "Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an ***image *formed** by the art and thought of man. (NASB95)*

*Revelation 13:16 ... 16 And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a ***mark** on their right hand or on their forehead, (NASB95)*

*Revelation 13:17 ... 17 and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the ***mark**, either the name of the beast or the number of his name. (NASB95)*

*Revelation 14:9 ... 9 Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a ***mark** on his forehead or on his hand, (NASB95)*

*Revelation 14:11 ... 11 "And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the ***mark** of his name." (NASB95)*

*Revelation 16:2 ... 2 So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth; and it became a loathsome and malignant sore on the people who had the ***mark** of the beast and who worshiped his image. (NASB95)*

*Revelation 19:20 ... 20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the ***mark** of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. (NASB95)*

*Revelation 20:4 ... 4 Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the ***mark** on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (NASB95)*

The "mark of the beast" was an unspecified, perhaps symbolic, form of documentation, indicating that one had bowed in obeisance to the beast of Revelation. Without such certification, one could not buy or sell in the marketplace (Rev. 13:16-17). However, those who compromised their convictions to avoid the temporal wrath of Rome would incur the eternal wrath of Almighty God (Rev. 14:9-12).

Revelation 13:16-17 ... 16 And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their

forehead, 17 and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name. (NASB95)

Revelation 14:9-12 ... 9 Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 "And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." 12 Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. (NASB95)

Application: Questions For The Heart

We Function In These Realms:	Is Our Example Good Or Bad?	Scriptural Standard
Church	Attitude & Actions	Ephesians 4:1-6
Home	Roles & Responsibilities	Ephesians 5:22-6:4
Society	Clothing & Conversation	Ephesians 5:3-16
Work	Performance & Priorities	Ephesians 6:5-9

We influence others for either good or bad. We function in the following realms: Church, Home, Society, and Work. What kind of example are we setting in each of these areas? Is our influence good or bad? What about our attitudes and actions? What about our roles and responsibilities? What about our clothing and conversation? What about our performance and priorities?

If you maintain purity, you will have a positive influence on those who have good and honest hearts, those who have an open-minded attitude toward the truth, and those who are seeking to please God. However, if you become defiled by sin, your influence will be directed toward those who have evil and dishonest hearts, those who have a closed-minded attitude toward the truth, and those who have no interest in pleasing God.

Ephesians 4:1-6 ... 1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. (NASB95)

Ephesians 5:22-6:4 ... 22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, 30 because we are members of His body. 31 For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. 32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband. 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth. 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (NASB95)

Ephesians 4:17-24 ... 17 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; 19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. 20 But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. (NASB95)

Ephesians 5:3-16 ... 3 But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; 4 and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them; 8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light 9 (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), 10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; 12 for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. 14 For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you." 15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as

unwise men but as wise, 16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil. (NASB95)

Ephesians 6:5-9 ... 5 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; 6 not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. 7 With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, 8 knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free. 9 And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him. (NASB95)

Conclusion

God made us in His image (Gen. 1:26-27). This alone should tell us not to change this body by putting marks on it. In a symbolic sense, bad conduct places marks of sin on the pure body that God has given us. In such a state, how can we be an influence on others to do good? Are you marked by God, or are you marked by sin? Do you bear the marks of the Lord Jesus Christ, or do you bear the mark of the beast? If we are not willing to stand up for Christ in the midst of an adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will not stand up for us in the judgment (Mark 8:38).

Genesis 1:26-27 ... 26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (NASB95);

Mark 8:38 ... 38 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." (NASB95)

God wants us to be a special people for his own possession, purified from all iniquity, and zealous of good works (Titus 2:14). Christians must come out of the world and be separate from sin (2 Cor. 6:17-18). We must cleanse ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God (2 Cor. 7:1). Therefore, like Paul, let us magnify Christ in our bodies, whether by life or by death (Phil. 1:20).

Titus 2:14 ... 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. (NASB95)

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 ... 17 "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; and I will welcome you. 18 "And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me," says the Lord Almighty. (NASB95)

2 Corinthians 7:1 ... 1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (NASB95)

Philippians 1:20 ... 20 according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. (NASB95)

ⁱ W. E. Vine, *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words*, (Seattle, WA: BibleSoft & Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1985, 1996), s.v., "Mark (Noun)."

ⁱⁱ *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, 1915 Edition*, ed. James Orr, (Seattle, WA: BibleSoft, 1996.), s.v. "Mark."

ⁱⁱⁱ Geoffrey W. Bromiley, ed., *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. The Paternoster Press 1985), s.v. "STIGMA," p. 1086.

^{iv} W. E. Vine, *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words*, (Seattle, WA: BibleSoft & Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1985, 1996), s.v., "Mark (Noun)."

^v *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, 1915 Edition*, ed. James Orr, (Seattle, WA: BibleSoft, 1996.), s.v. "Mark."

^{vi} Geoffrey W. Bromiley, ed., *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. The Paternoster Press 1985), s.v. "CHARAGMA," p. 1308.