On August 18th, 2005, my wife and I were double blessed with the birth of twin boys. The first, Kendall, was born at 6:51 pm and the second, Jackson, arrived exactly 10 minutes later at 7:01 pm, adding to our already blessed family of a 3 year old, Jordan. As soon as the twins were delivered the doctors informed us that they believed that ours were identical twins.

Fraternal twins or dizygotic twins, is the result of two different cells being fertilized. This leads to the development of 2 separate placentas, each with its own inner (amnion) and outer (chorion) membranes. Fraternal twins are more common than identical twins and account for about 2 out of every 3 twin pregnancies.

Identical twins, or monozygotic twins, develop when a single fertilized cell splits. Depending on when the split occurs will determine if the twins share a placenta or if they each develop their own placentas. The later the split occurs, the more likely that the twins will share one placenta. Although no DNA test have been done yet, the doctors are pretty certain our twins are identical because although they could not completely determine if they shared the same placenta, they are certain they only had 1 chorion layer.

Identical twins are always the same sex. And in our case we have identical boys. Identical twins always share the same blood types. Identical twins have the same DNA chromosomes, with similar foot and hand prints, but different fingerprints and teeth marks. Identical twins have similar but not exact fingerprints. Identical twins do not “run in the family”, except by coincidence. No hereditary influence for identical twins has been identified. Fraternal twins can be hereditary on the mother’s side, being passed from mother to daughter. No one knows exactly why identical twinning occurs.

Although Identical twins have the same DNA, there can be very slight differences due to their birth development. For ours, Jackson has a small red blood vessel over his right eye while Kendall has the same red spot over both eyes. That slight marking upon their body separates them one from the other. One small blood vessel marks them. One mark upon their body distinguishes the two of them.

We live in a world that is consumed with the thought of doing everything possible to magnify and exalt this body. The greatest god of this world of our day is the god of entertainment, and for many men, the god of sports. This world worships this physical body. Paul warns about this in Romans:

“Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.” Romans 1:25

The world paints, tattoos, brands, pierces, cuts, and marks this body in an attempt to make mankind greater. You see people today with every kind of tattoo and piercing imaginable. Why? Because these tattoos and piercings and body marks represent something to them, they are an expression of something in there soul. These marks upon their bodies associate them with a
certain group. These body marks are an outward symbol of what gang, organization, team, or unit that they are affiliating themselves with. Many times it is an outward symbol of whom or what they love on the inside.

“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 KJV

“Never cut your bodies in mourning for the dead or mark your skin with tattoos, for I am the LORD.” Leviticus 19:28 NLT

The practice of making deep gashes on the face, arms, and legs, in time of bereavement, was universal among the pagan, and it was deemed a becoming mark of respect for the dead, as well as a sort of offering to the deities who presided over death and the grave. The Jews learned the custom in Egypt; and, though weaned from it, later relapsed back into this old superstition (Deut 14:1; Isa 15:2; Jer 16:6; 41:5; 47:5) The impression was made sometimes by means of a hot iron, sometimes by ink or paint. It is probable, from the association of Leviticus 19:29, that a strong propensity to adopt such marks in honor of some idol gave occasion to the prohibition in this verse; and they were forbidden, for they were signs of apostasy.

By tattooing; imprinting figures of flowers, leaves, stars, and other fanciful devices on various parts of their person, the ancients were very violent in their grief, tearing the hair and face, beating the body. It was a very ancient and a very general custom to carry marks on the body in honor of the object of their worship. Ancient writers abound with accounts of marks made on the face, arms, and body in honor of different idols. These were not only signs of sorrow, but were even supposed to give ease to the dead, and appease the angry gods. The blood from their markings was supposed to even make and atonement for the dead.

These marks from Leviticus 19:28 (print any marks upon you) were called stigmata among the Greeks. The Greek word stigmata is where we get the English word for stigmatism. A stigmatisation is something in the eye, it is what you see. These marks upon their body declared they worshipped the dead. It was an outward expression of what they worshipped inwardly.

Paul wrote in Galatians 6:17, “for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.”

Paul uses the same Greek word stigmata. Paul said he also carried an outward body mark upon him of who he worshipped inwardly. It was an expression of who his soul loved. It was a mark that associated him with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Tattoos were used to mark the body. Tattoos showed what gods you worshipped. Tattoos were symbols of worship to the Dead. That marking upon their body separated them one from the other.

Apostolic men, we are not here to worship the dead, but the Living. There is only one God, and He is alive. We have a body to worship with and we need to use our bodies to worship the Living Savior, Jesus Christ. Men, we have a responsibility when we go into the house of the Lord. We are to use our bodies to show what side we are on. Worship in the Hebrew required movement.
As men, we need to emphatically declare, with our bodies, which team we are supporting. There should be an outward expression with our body of whom and what we inwardly love.

“It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

— Genesis 2:18

“19 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? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Every 7th Year, the Law required the male slave to be set free. But if he, the slave decided he did not want to leave his master, then they would place an aul through his ear lobe, thus marking him for the rest of his life, Deut 15:12-18. He became a love slave to his master for ever. One small mark upon his body associated him to his master for life. It was a mark upon his body, a mark of love to his master.

Men, our children, our families, our church and the world should clearly know who we love. How we use our bodies, inside and outside the sanctuary, will distinguish us from the world. We need to have a mark upon our bodies, a mark of divine love to our Master, a stigmata of love to our Savior, Jesus Christ.

- Tim Williams