

taboo

A Biblical perspective on
things we don't talk about

Taboo Roundtable (1 Kings 19:1-18)

Taboo sermon series

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- **EVOLUTION/CREATION:** ([Revelation 4:11](#), [Acts 17:26-27](#))
 - Creation/evolution debate
 - It seems that evolution is the only answer in education circles and creation in faith circles and it is taboo to even suggest the opposite viewpoint in those circles.
 - How can we better look at this topic?
 - How long is a "day" (*yom* in Hebrew) in Genesis 1?
 - 24 hours, 3 years, 10,000 years, 10 million years?
 - How literal is the description meant to be?
 - Primary positions held by sincere Christian theologians and scientists
 - Young earth creationism
 - Old earth creationism
 - Evolutionary theism

- **MENTAL ILLNESS:** ([Philippians 4:6-7](#) (NIV) & [Matthew 6:25,27](#))
 - Mental illness as a physical ailment of the mind.
 - Spiritual or sin problem — not being obedient to God's expectations on our behavior.
 - "Mental illnesses are health conditions involving changes in emotion, thinking or behavior (or a combination of these). Mental illnesses are associated with distress and/or problems functioning in social, work or family activities." — APA

- **TATTOOS:** ([Leviticus 19:28](#))
 - Is it taboo to have tattoos as a Christian?

- **JUDGING OTHERS:** ([1 Corinthians 5:9-12](#); [Hebrews 3:12-13](#); [Matthew 7:1](#); [Romans 2:4](#); [James 5:19-20](#); [Jude 1:22-23](#))
 - Jesus' command about not judging others.
 - People use that as an excuse to absolve their own sinful behavior.
 - Jesus certainly seemed to pass judgment on others at certain times.
 - Are we called to judge or not? And did Jesus contradict himself?
 - God alone is the ultimate Judge for humanity – and Jesus was God Incarnate.

- Though we don't have the right to pass final judgment, he does.
 - Jesus did not use his authority to coldly reject others – he always worked to bring others to repentance.
- How we treat those outside the church and those inside the church.
 - We shouldn't expect Christ-centered ethics from those who haven't given their lives to Christ.
 - Their greatest need is not to get "cleaned up" – their greatest need is to find the grace and love of God and His forgiveness.
- Why is it okay, and in fact our responsibility, to "judge" other Christians?
 - A believer's greatest need is to stay close to God.
 - When a Christian is engaged in sin, it pulls them away from God, and it is our responsibility to gently correct them.
- The goal is always restoration, not condemnation.

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- **EVOLUTION/CREATION:**
 - **Young earth or old?** The debate that divides Christians but shouldn't — see article at [Stream](#). You can also see info about old earth creationism at [Reasons to Believe](#), and about young earth creationism at [Answers in Genesis](#) and [Creation Ministries International](#).
 - **What about intelligent design?** Read more at [Discovery](#), and at [intelligentdesign.org](#).
 - **The 'Evidence for Belief': An interview with Francis Collins** (head of the Human Genome Project, and an evangelical Christian). Check out this interview at [Pew Forum](#).
 - **Interesting article on learnings from Mount St. Helens:** read the article at [creation.com](#).
 - **Wikipedia articles for further study:** [Scientific method](#), [Old Earth creationism](#), [Progressive creationism](#) & [Theistic evolution](#).
 - **Scriptures for further study:** [Acts 17:26-27](#), [Revelation 4:11](#).
- **MENTAL ILLNESS:**
 - **Information on mental illness:** an article from the [American Psychiatric Association](#) website.
 - **The stigma of mental illness persists, even in Christian circles:** an article on the [Geneva College](#) website.
 - **Having mental health issues doesn't mean you're a bad Christian:** In fact, owning up to your mental health issues is a sign of spiritual maturity, according to a Christian article found at [Relevant Magazine](#).
 - **Christians need to end the stigma around mental illness:** this Christian author with bipolar disorder describes how the disorder has made her a better, stronger Christian, in [Relevant Magazine](#).
- **TATTOOS:**
 - **Is it wrong to have a tattoo, Biblically or otherwise?** Check out this [Got Questions](#) article & video. Also see an article at [Newspring Church](#).
 - **How can we understand what the Old Testament is saying about tattoos?** Check out this [article](#).
- **JUDGING OTHERS:**
 - **What does the Bible mean that we are not to judge others?** Check out this [Got Questions](#) article & video.
 - **Scriptures for further study:** [James 5:19-20](#), [Jude 1:22-23](#), [2 Corinthians 10:3-6](#), [Matthew 7:1-5](#), [1 Corinthians 5:9-13](#), [James 4:11-12](#), [1 Corinthians 10:23](#), [Luke 6:37](#), [Luke 11:39-52](#), [1 Peter 3:8-9](#), [Romans 2:3-4](#), [Romans 14:1](#).