

What The Bible Says About Dogs

'You will be holy to Me, therefore you will not eat any flesh that is torn by animals in the field. You will cast it to the dogs' (Exodus 22:31).

'Whatever animal walks on four paws among all animals, are unclean to you' (Leviticus 11:27).

'You will not bring the hire of a prostitute or the wages of a dog (a sodomite, a male homosexual), into the house of the Lord your God for any vow, for both these are an abomination to the Lord your God' (Deuteronomy 23:18).

'You will speak to him saying, thus says the Lord, "Have you killed and also stolen? In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, will dogs lick your blood"' (1 Kings 21:19).

'They washed the chariot by the pool of Samaria where the prostitutes washed themselves and the dogs licked up the blood of Jehoshaphat, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke' (1 Kings 22:38).

'Like a pack of dogs they have surrounded me. A company of evildoers have encircled me' (Psalm 22:16).

'As a dog that returns to its vomit, so is a fool who repeats his foolishness' (Proverbs 26:11).

'His watchmen (lazy, indifferent church leaders) are blind and are without knowledge (of the scriptures). They are like mute dogs. They cannot bark (teach the truth). They dream, lie down and love to slumber. Yes, the dogs (evil church leaders/hypocrites) are greedy and can never get enough. These are shepherds who cannot understand. They have all turned to their own way, each one to his own gain, greed from every direction' (Isaiah 56:10 & 11).

'Her (Jerusalem's) princes (leaders) in its midst are like wild dogs ravaging the prey to shed blood and destroy souls so the princes may receive dishonest gain' (Ezekiel 22:27).

'The horses are swifter than leopards and more fierce than the evening wild dogs (hyenas). The horsemen press proudly on and come from afar. They fly as an eagle hurrying to devour' (Habakkuk 1:8).

'Her (Jerusalem's) princes (leaders) in the midst of her are roaring lions. Her judges are evening wild dogs (hyenas). They leave nothing until the next day' (Zephaniah 3:3).

'Do not give that which is holy to dogs, neither throw your pearls before the swine, lest they trample them under their feet and turn and tear you to pieces' (Matthew 7:6).

'Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of false believers' (Philippians 3:2).

'A dog returns to its vomit and the swine that has washed returns to the mud' (2 Peter 2:22).

'Outside (of heaven) are dogs (homosexuals, lesbians, prostitutes), sorcerers, sexually immoral, murderers, idolaters and everyone who loves and deals in deception' (Revelation 22:15).

This Bible study has been written solely as a topic of consideration and prayer. Dogs may seem to be a mundane topic but remember, all scripture is written by inspiration from God. 'Every Scripture is God-breathed and valuable for teaching, admonition, correction and for instruction in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16). Jesus never owned a pet and neither did any of the disciples. They were all interested in people more than animals and Jesus was our perfect Example, so we should all have the same attitude. People should always take precedence over animals. Most people have never given a thought about what the Bible says about dogs but as we can see by the above scriptures, dogs are not high in the Lord's favourite animal list. The Lord associates dogs with pigs, murderers, idolatry, witchcraft, prostitutes, homosexuals, gore, violence, evil, worthlessness, foolishness, greed, deception and sinful religious leaders who love to destroy the souls of innocent people. There is not one verse in the Bible that speaks of dogs in a positive way but there are over fifty verses putting dogs in a negative light along with jackals, wild dogs, wolves, hyenas and other canines. There is not one verse that mentions dogs as domestic pets except those owned by ungodly people. The scriptures make it clear what dogs were created for – scavengers to clean up rotting carcasses like vultures do. If we take a dog for a walk even on a leash, it will instinctively pick up any food that is left on the ground. Dogs will eat what other carnivores will not touch – rotting food.

The Lord does not directly say we cannot own dogs, but it is strongly implied. Owning dogs may not be sin, but what is sin is idolising your pet, whether it be a dog or some other animal. Many Christians who would be horrified at the thought of idolatry, actually idolise their dogs without realising it. They miss church if their dog is sick or worse still, they take their dog to church. Some Christians spend more money on their dogs' health than they do on the health of their children. There are people who are called to the mission field who will not go because it would mean parting with their dog. Some people replace natural human affection with the unnatural desire to receive affection from their dogs. Some dog owners allow their dogs to disrupt home group meetings. Some people regard their dogs as substitute 'children'. Like spoilt children, some dogs whimper and yelp until they receive attention. People often spend more time with their dogs than in Bible reading and prayer. People who claim to love Jesus would never give their dog up for Him. All that is idolatry and there would be many hundreds of Christians who would need to repent of idolising their dogs or other pets. We are not to ever put anyone or anything before the Lord because that makes us unworthy to be the Lord's disciple (Luke 14:26). If we are serious about wanting to please God then we need to put all carnal things out of our lives and walk the narrow path the Lord set before us (Matthew 7:13 & 14). Dogs do not save souls. Dogs cannot spread the Gospel message of salvation. Dogs do not lead us to holiness, they do not bring spiritual growth, they do not glorify God, they can never replace the holy and pure love of the Father and they most certainly do not edify. Dogs are of no spiritual value. If we want to experience love, we need to turn to the Lord and receive His love. Our mandate as Christians is to obediently serve and glorify God, spread the Gospel and love humans, especially fellow Christians. Dog ownership is not beneficial for the Kingdom of God. The Bible says, 'All things are lawful for me but not all things are beneficial and do not edify' (1 Corinthians 10:23).

Here is a fact we need to pay close attention to. In the Bible, where there were domestic dogs, there was idolatry, evil and sin. Scripturally, dogs and idolatry go hand in hand. How many people have ever considered that? Ancient Egypt had domestic dogs and we know that nation came under terrible judgement for the idolatry in the land. The ten plagues during the time of Moses were for judgement on Egypt. We know Egypt worshipped various canines as 'gods' and we know idol worship originates from evil spirits. We notice the Lord's chosen people, the children of Israel did not keep domestic dogs. How many people have noticed that? The Lord's people were not allowed to own dogs because they were unclean animals. At the time Israel was to flee from Egypt, the Lord God silenced all the dogs owned by the Egyptians. 'There will be a great cry throughout all Egypt, such as there has not been nor will be again. But against any of the children of Israel a dog will not bark or move its tongue, against man or animal so you will know the Lord makes a distinction between the Egyptians and Israel' (Exodus 11:6 & 7). The Lord made the distinction between the idolaters who owned dogs and His people who did not own dogs. That implies the Lord's people – Christians, should not own dogs either. That is something Christians need to consider and pray about. The Lord has authority over everything evil, including the evil spirits that inhabited the dogs owned by the Egyptians and He silenced them. Many hundreds of years later, Jesus also took authority and silenced evil spirits when He was on earth. Many people do not realise dogs are capable of 'housing' evil spirits and their owners might need to be delivered from the spirit of the dog. 'Deliver my soul from the sword and my precious life from the spirit of the dog' (Psalm 22:20). People who overly 'love' and idolise their dog are practicing a form of idolatry and could possibly have a spirit of the dog in their soul without realising it

Dog ownership is a carnal desire and is sometimes driven by an evil spirit. In some countries, demon possessed dogs called 'spirit dogs' only ever attack Christians. One disturbing but true story is that of a couple who adored their large Alsatian. To the couple, the dog was the 'child' they had never had. When the wife realised she had been idolising the dog she sought deliverance from the spirit of dog. During her deliverance in the church office one working day, her husband was out driving their small utility truck several kilometres away with the dog sitting on the tray. At the exact moment the woman was delivered of the evil spirit of dog, their Alsatian howled as though in agony, leapt from the tray of the moving truck into the path of another vehicle and was killed instantly. The shocked husband was later delivered of the spirit of dog. Bible believing Christians need to ask themselves these questions: Would you give up your dog for Jesus? Would you give up your dog to go out and save souls? Is the dog more important to you than the salvation of people? Does your dog come before the Lord in your life? Do you love your dog more than you love God? Do you tend to your dog's needs before obeying the Lord's commands? Are you unknowingly idolising your pet?

We hear of pet dogs turning on their owners or neighbours for no apparent reason and causing terrible injuries or death. Dogs have been known to attack and kill children and that has happened many times. The scripture says, 'The devil comes to steal, kill and destroy' (John 10:10). We can assume, when a dog turns on a human suddenly and for no apparent reason, it could be the moment when the evil spirit in the dog takes control of the animal. We know dogs are pack animals and they are naturally aggressive. There are large numbers of dogs, both domesticated and feral, that attack and kill farm animals, just for the pleasure of the kill. They are torn to pieces and left. Dogs tear birthing calves out of their mother's bodies. Barking is a

sign of aggression. In the wild, dogs bark to warn off other animals. In our society, dogs bark to warn off people, so the dog is acting aggressively on behalf of its 'pack' – the owners. In this day and age, aggression is politically unacceptable. To counter that, many people acquire a dog to be aggressive in their place. That can be seen by the way dog owners react angrily when a neighbour who wants to stop the dog from barking, confronts them. The dog owner almost always reacts indignantly and with aggression and Christians are no exception. Christians can become very haughty when challenged over their dog. They often do not act very Godly because they love their dogs more than they love their neighbours and the Bible says we must love our neighbours. If you are a Christian with an annoying barking dog, you are not loving your neighbours – you are antagonising them. Is that being a good witness to the unsaved? The constant barking is irritating and we are told to live in peace in the grace of God. Christians should set an example to the people in the world – not be like them.

In our modern world, there is a place for carefully selected, bred and well trained dogs, but dogs are not naturally tame. With years of research, scientists have discovered the laboratory dogs had to be tamed over time for many generations before they could be trained to be useful. Selectively bred dogs are perfect for working dogs, like police dogs, guard dogs, guide dogs for the blind, dogs for the deaf, specially trained dogs to help with disabled people, cattle dogs, sheep dogs, drug detection dogs, search and rescue dogs, cadaver dogs, huskies and there are dogs trained to detect cancer, but they are all working dogs not cosy little pets, and all are carefully bred, selected and trained over a period of time, sometimes generation after generation. But even after several generations of careful breeding and training, if dogs are set free and left to themselves, within a year formerly domesticated and well trained dogs revert to being wild, feral, aggressive and very dangerous pack animals.

Dog breeders have a spiritually worthless job that will receive no spiritual rewards. 'Each person's work will be revealed. Judgement Day will declare it because it is revealed by fire and the fire itself will test each person's work. If anyone's work remains, they will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, they will suffer loss but they will be saved but as through fire' (1 Corinthians 3:13 to 15). For our work to be accepted by the Lord, it must involve obedience to God and line up with the Bible. For Christians to say, "But we breed dogs," shows they are embarking on unnecessary works that do not increase the Kingdom of God. Dog breeding is one work we can be sure will be burned up. Why breed more dogs when there are millions of them already and many are unwanted? Hundreds of dogs are dumped every year to be either destroyed or they become wild and feral. Asian nations have the right idea – they breed dogs for food to feed hungry families.

Unless the dogs are used as working dogs for a specific purpose, dogs are irrelevant to our walk with the Lord. Dogs serve no purpose whatsoever in the Kingdom of God or in our aspirations to achieve a closer walk with God through worship and obedience. If anything, dogs are a distraction. We need to be unquestioningly obedient to the Father like Jesus was. Jesus went to the cross and died a terrible death to save people. He did not die to save animals. Animals do not have the human spirit of life. Just like Jesus, the apostles and the early church, our whole heart should be committed to reaching people for the Kingdom of God. Jesus was God on earth and He never ever took the slightest notice of animals. He only ever tended to the physical and spiritual wellbeing of people and we need to follow His perfect example. The following powerful verses should make pets irrelevant to the lives of Christians and should make people look more to Jesus than to earthly desires like pet ownership unless there is a specific purpose for having a working animal.

'Keep this in mind which is in Jesus, Who though existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God a privilege but emptied Himself, taking the form of a Servant in the likeness of men. Being in human form, He humbled Himself being obedient to death on the cross. Therefore, God highly exalted Him and gave to Him the name above every name, so at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, those in heaven, those on earth and those buried in the earth, and so every tongue will confess, Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father' (Philippians 2:5 to 11). 'I saw and I heard a voice of many angels around the throne, the four living creatures (cherubim) and the elders, and the number of them was ten thousands of ten thousands, and thousands of thousands saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who has been slain, to receive power, wealth, wisdom, strength, honour, glory and blessing! ... To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be the blessing, the honour, the glory and the dominion, forever and ever! Amen!" (Revelation 5:11 to 13).

Amen and God bless you.

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