

To whom it may concern,

The purpose of this document is to appeal for exemption status of mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy for the conscientious objector on the grounds of philosophical and theological faith and reasoning held by the Christian, or Christ follower, independent of denomination and wholly dependent upon the infallible Word of God presented in both the Old and New Testaments within the text of the Holy Bible. Before expounding upon the philosophical and theological arguments, it is necessary to preface it with the various inconsistencies of the COVID-19 narrative because Christianity conforms with truth. This will include a general explanation of infectious disease, the purposes and goals of immunization, as well as the definitions of relevant microbiological, immunological, and medical terminology. This is written with the hope that God, my Father, would use this document to reach the hearts of those reading it, and that, through it, they may progress toward a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, not only knowing His truly amazing grace and His awesome mercy offered to us, but also accepting it as the truth.

It would be useful to first explain the differences between infection and disease. This difference seems to be most well understood within the context of sexual transmission. According to the World Health Organization's (WHO's) Guidelines For The Management Of Sexually Transmitted Infections, 2003 copyright, on page vi under the, "Note on terminology," section, "The World Health Organization recommends that the term sexually transmitted disease (STD) be replaced by the term sexually transmitted infection (STI). The term sexually transmitted infection has been adopted since 1999 as it better incorporates asymptomatic infections. In addition, the term has been adopted by a wide range of scientific societies and publications." This means that infection is the presence of the pathogen, any microorganism or virus, or complex thereof, that causes disease, while disease is the presence of symptoms and illness. The relevance of the differentiation of these terms resides in the differentiation of COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2 because COVID-19 is often confused with the viral pathogen. COVID-19 is the shortening of coronavirus disease 2019 and SARS-CoV-2 is the shortening of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2. COVID-19 is the disease while SARS-CoV-2 is the viral pathogen.

Each disease is defined by its symptoms and the pathogen(s) that cause those symptoms. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) webpage on the similarities and differences between flu and COVID-19, both influenza and COVID-19 share the following symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, sore throat, nasal congestion, running nose, body aches, headache, nausea, diarrhea, change in or loss of smell or taste. The CDC list of symptoms for SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) on the SARS basic fact sheet webpage includes fever, headache, malaise (general feeling of discomfort), body aches, mild respiratory symptoms; which would include sore throat, nasal congestion, running nose, and change in or loss of smell or taste; diarrhea, cough, and pneumonia. MERS (Middle East respiratory syndrome) also shares much of the same symptoms as SARS, COVID-19, and influenza according to the CDC's webpage on MERS symptoms and complications. From the perspective of disease symptoms, COVID-19, influenza, SARS, and MERS are virtually identical. The only differentiation between these diseases is the viral pathogen, three of which are caused by coronaviruses. This similarity in disease symptoms further affirms the decades old observation that coronaviruses cause influenza-like illness just as many other viruses such as rhinovirus, adenovirus, and enterovirus; all of which also contribute to common cold cases, including coronaviruses.

Something that is not often spoken about outside of academic and medical settings are the complications of severe disease that all four of these respiratory diseases share. Both pneumonia and

hypercytokinemia are present in severe disease. Pneumonia is the inflammation of the lungs, specifically inflammation of the alveoli, or air sacs within the lungs. Viral associated pneumonia is often caused by an opportunistic bacterial infection. Hypercytokinemia may then follow pneumonia. Hypercytokinemia is a hyper inflammatory response somewhat similar in concept to anaphylaxis occurring in food allergies, especially allergies to legumes, like peanuts, and tree nuts. Unlike anaphylaxis, hypercytokinemia is an excessive release of cytokines which activate white blood cells. This often causes sepsis, shock, tissue damage, and edema. It is generally believed that hypercytokinemia is the primary cause of death for immunocompetent individuals during the 1918 Spanish Influenza Pandemic. These inflammatory conditions are why there have been anecdotal observations of success with hydroxychloroquine treatment in SARS, MERS, and COVID-19 patients. The drug has an anti-inflammatory effect and is used to treat other inflammatory conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis and lupus. Unfortunately, this has not been adequately explained outside of academia by both those encouraging and discouraging its use for treatment.

As we know, the primary purpose of vaccination is to prevent disease prevalence and transmission within the population through acquiring herd immunity. What is not often discussed is that herd immunity is not exclusively achieved through vaccine acquired immunity. It may also be achieved through natural acquired immunity and a combination of both. The purpose of acquiring herd immunity is to protect the immunocompromised, who are usually ineligible for vaccination. The CDC recommends that all individuals, including the immunocompromised, pregnant, and nursing mothers, according to the CDC's webpage on interim clinical considerations for COVID-19 vaccines. It also states that the only individuals which are not advised to be vaccinated are those with a known allergy, either severe (anaphylaxis) or immediate reaction of any severity, to any of the ingredients in the vaccine. Unfortunately, even with vaccination, transmission is not prevented according to a statement from the CDC Director, Rachel Walensky, "High viral loads suggest an increased risk of transmission and raised concern that, unlike with other variants, vaccinated people infected with Delta can transmit the virus." This then means that herd immunity cannot be achieved because the virus is still transmissible. Even if vaccination did prevent immediate transmission, it would not prevent reinfection. Coronavirus reinfection has been previously observed and known. Most adult coronavirus infections are reinfections. It seems that reinfection and disease occurrence are not dependent upon antibody prevalence. This then allows one to question the benefit of vaccination. It seems there is none for coronaviruses and the variable disease severity they cause between infections. They are also zoonotic, meaning cross-species transmission, hence the origin of SARS-CoV-2 being traced to a bat. This then renders the argument of disease eradication null due to an animal reservoir, like birds and pigs are reservoirs for influenza (avian flu and swine flu), another zoonotic viral respiratory disease.

Upon considering these facts, we are justified to question the motivation for demanding mandatory COVID-19 vaccination. If there is not any tangible health benefit, preventing disease and its transmission, then the reason for compulsory vaccination is called into question, leading Christians to turn to the Word of God for guidance. As Christians, we are to conform to what is true. We are not to conform to what is false. Truth is consistent while falsehood is not. This concludes the preface and begins the conscientious objection to mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy of the Christian based upon the scriptures within the Holy Bible, independent of denomination.

Truth was previously mentioned in this document. Although truth can be described and defined in a separate large volume philosophical work, it is necessary to provide a brief description within this document. Truth is objective reality, meaning that it is independent of those observing and/or proclaiming it. The claim, "it rained on September 16, 2009 in St. Louis, Missouri," is either true or false, regardless of whether it is proclaimed by a child or a prestigious authoritative meteorologist.

Whether or not it did rain on this day, in this location, is independent of the individual's observation and proclamation and, therefore, also their credentials. In other words, truth is not subjective, meaning subject to man. If truth is not subject to man, and it is, regardless of man, then man is subject to truth. If man is subject to truth, then man has no authority over truth. Truth is not contradictory. This matters because there is a fundamental disagreement of what the truth is. There would be no conscientious objection if no disagreement on truth existed.

The Christian affirms that truth comes from God, that truth is God, that truth exists within His Word, that God does not lie (John 14:6, 14:15-17, 15:26, 16:12-15, 17:1-26; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Titus 1:1-3, Hebrews 6:17-20). This cannot be said of any mortal man. Scripture is very clear that man deceives himself as well as others. His very heart is wicked and sick (Jeremiah 9:3-5, 17:9-10). If man's heart is so desperately wicked that he cannot even know his own heart, then truth cannot come from man's heart. He cannot know truth except by God, for God is the very source of truth. God's Word has authority over man's word. Never has, never does, and never will man's word have authority over God's Word. Colossians 2:6-15 states:

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”

God's authority, sovereignty, reigns over the whole of creation because He is the Creator. He knows His creation better than creation knows itself (Psalm 139). Because Christ is the Word become flesh (John 1:14), God the Son, truth also comes from Him and He too has authority over the whole of creation (Matthew 28:16-20). We are bought by Christ, given His grace, His mercy. The price was His crucifixion, taking upon Himself the sins of the world and facing the wrath of the Father so that we may avoid what we deserve, justice, death (Romans 5:6-11, 1 John 2:1-6). That is unconditional love (1 John 4:7-12). Remember, man's heart is wicked. Christ owns the body of the Christian.

Bodily autonomy is a popular argument against compulsory vaccination. The Christian, the Biblical Christian, argues against bodily autonomy. Because we are created by God and bought through Christ's crucifixion, our bodies belong to Him and Him alone. God alone has authority over the body. Only He may dictate what ought and what ought not be done to our bodies because they are temples of His Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:12-20). It was by God's authority that Abraham circumcised Isaac (Genesis 17:9-14, Genesis 21:1-5). It was by God's authority that animals were divided into clean and unclean (Leviticus 11, Deuteronomy 14:3-21). Again, it was by God's authority that circumcision was no longer required and that all animals were declared clean (1 Corinthians 7:17-24, Galatians 5:1-6, Mark 7:18-19, Acts 10:9-23). Compulsory vaccination policy denies this sovereignty of God over our bodies. It even encroaches upon seizing ownership of the body from God. No body is to be owned by any entity except by God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This includes single individuals, corporations, organizations, and governments regardless of their utilitarian claims.

The COVID-19 vaccine is treated as a miracle solution to the current pandemic. The whole of broadcast media, public health authority, the pharmaceutical industry, medical and healthcare industries, technology industry, governments and authoritative organizations are using this vaccine to compel people to worship human intellectual achievement rather than worship God. This dependence on and celebration of the vaccine has created a society of vaccine worship with vaccination status being the new age version of circumcision. This leads to challenging the intent of vaccine administration as more than public health because it is incorporating the worship of creation while denying the worship of the Creator. As believers in God, we only worship the one true God. False idols are a declaration against God's sovereign authority over the whole of creation (Isaiah 2:8; Isaiah 31:1-3; Jonah 2:7-9; Micah 5:13; Leviticus 26:1).

Because COVID-19 vaccination may be regarded as a circumcision promoting faith in human intellectual achievement, an all too tempting idol, the Christian may be in conflict with another's conscience. Paul states in 1 Corinthians 8:1-13:

“Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that ‘all of us possess knowledge.’ This ‘knowledge’ puffs up, but love builds up. If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

“Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that ‘an idol has no real existence,’ and that ‘there is no God but one.’ For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many ‘gods’ and many ‘Lords’—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

“However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.”

He also states in 1 Corinthians 10:23-33:

“‘All things are lawful,’ but not all things are helpful. ‘All things are lawful,’ but not all things build up. Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience. For ‘the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof.’ If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. But if someone says to you, ‘This has been offered in sacrifice,’ then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience—I do not mean your conscience, but his. For why should my liberty be determined by someone else's conscience? If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks?

“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.”

These COVID-19 vaccines are like the food offered to idols. The vaccine is the food, vaccination is eating, and the idol is human intellectual achievement. It is not possible to receive the vaccine without objection once recognizing this parallel. We are not to knowingly cause others to stumble.

Another point of theological and philosophical objection is the use of fetal cells in the testing, development, and production of vaccines. As Christians, we believe all human life has value upon inception (Ephesians 1:3-10), not to be confused with the conventional term “conception.” Fetuses are no less human within the womb than infants, children, and adults are human without the womb. Taxonomic classification of species is not dependent upon biological development. “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations (Jeremiah 1:5).” “...For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb...Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be... (Psalm 139).” We are also commanded to hold human life in the highest regard. “Anyone who takes the life of a human being is to be put to death (Leviticus 24:17)”. This is due to a complex of our creation being in God’s image, His love for His creation, us, and His commandment that we love one another. “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them (Genesis 1:27).” “...A new commandment I give you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another (John 13:31-35).” This brings us to the use of aborted cells in the development, production, and/or testing of the COVID-19 vaccines. All three vaccines (Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, and Pfizer) currently available to the public use PER.C6 or HEK293 fetal cell lines during development, production, and/or testing. As stated above human fetuses are human life and using their cells causes us to be complacent with their murder by abortion and shows contempt toward God’s act of creation as sovereign Creator.

This document has been written with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, by engaging and communing with the Father in prayer and scripture reading, to appeal for exemption status of mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy for the conscientious objector on the grounds of philosophical and theological faith and reasoning held by the Christian, or Christ follower, independent of denomination and wholly dependent upon the infallible Word of God presented in both the Old and New Testaments within the text of the Holy Bible. The COVID-19 narrative is contradictory, therefore untruthful; the Christian is to conform to truth, not falsehood; our bodies, as creation, belong to God, the Father, the Creator; we worship only God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit; human intellectual achievement is a false idol; we are not to knowingly affirm faith in idols; and we affirm that human life, regardless of developmental stage possesses intrinsic value as God’s most precious creation. Due to these reasons, compulsory COVID-19 vaccination policy is against the personal following of Jesus and Biblical scripture. This is written with the hope that God, my Father, would use this document to reach the hearts of those reading it, and that, through it, they may progress toward a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, not only knowing His truly amazing grace and His awesome mercy offered to us, but also accepting it as the truth.

“But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead (Philippians 3:7-11).”

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