

A Christian Statement on Vaccination and Religious Objection

Introduction

As Christians with religious objections to vaccines, we share the goals of promoting good health for children and families, spiritually, emotionally, and physically. With these goals in mind, in good conscience we cannot agree to have the state mandate vaccinating our children. Some with religious objections to vaccination may choose to use some vaccines and some may abstain from all. We are united against religious discrimination which goes against our sincerely held beliefs.

Christian Reasons to avoid vaccination

1) Fetal Cell Lines

American vaccines have a serious moral issue with cell lines taken from aborted babies. The Bible teaches that “thou shalt not kill.”¹ Biblically, murdering another person is a serious offense which brings the need for redress. As God told Cain when he murdered his brother, “What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother’s blood crieth unto me from the ground.”² In addition to avoiding violence, Christians are also told to advocate for victims.³

Some of the most common vaccines are only licensed in America in forms that include live attenuated viruses cultured in aborted fetal cell lines.

The Rubella portion of the MMR or MMRV is Wistar RA 27/3.⁴ It is documented that at least **eighty abortions**, likely more, took place in order to create simply that one vaccine.⁵ It also appears that the researchers involved had close relationships with abortionists, and obtaining babies’ bodies *for the purpose of creating vaccines* was intentional. What persuasion or coercion of mothers to that end took place is unknown.⁶

WI-38 is a cell line sourced from the lung tissue of a Swedish baby girl⁷, and MRC-5 was taken from a baby boy. Both of these are currently in use in America, and this alone would be enough to give Christians serious pause. What is even more alarming is that the cell lines do not last forever, and there is a demand to continue to produce cell lines. One recent one is Walvax-2, taken from a Chinese baby girl. She was one of nine aborted babies used in starting this new cell line in 2015.⁸

Many Christians avoid vaccines which include fetal cell lines. This is due to the great loss of life in producing these vaccines, concerns about human dna remnants in the vaccine itself, and a desire to avoid creating an incentive to develop similar cell lines in the future. Jessica Farnsworth, MD writes, “The only recourse I have, and would argue any Christian should have, is to boycott these products. How else will the pharmaceutical companies be influenced to produce ethical vaccines...?”⁹

2) Sexual Ethics and Substance Abuse

The Bible says, "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."¹⁰ Christianity teaches radical self-control¹¹ and a lifestyle with high moral ethics, including lifetime monogamy.¹² We are to flee from sexual immorality of any kind¹³ and are not to abuse the body with recreational intravenous drugs.

For most people, sexual contact or needle-sharing are the only ways to be exposed to infections such as HPV (sexual only) or Hepatitis B. Generally, these vaccines are administered in order to enable one's children to make Biblically sinful decisions. If adults choose to pursue these lifestyles or work in high-risk fields, they can make the choice to get the vaccines. But to require Christian parents to provide them to children (who are generally not at risk of these diseases) is a violation of conscience.

3) Biblical View of the Body

We are not permitted in the Bible to treat the body in a way that we believe will harm it. The Bible teaches us that the body is created in the image of God¹⁴, the temple of the Holy Spirit¹⁵, a living sacrifice to the Lord.¹⁶

Some of us have children who have suffered vaccine reactions. Some have children with other serious health challenges. Some have children who have been told not to vaccinate by their doctors for health reasons. Some of us do not believe that one or more of the vaccines on the schedule would be a healthy choice for our family.

In addition, some believers may wish either for health or spiritual reasons to avoid blood products¹⁷ or products from unclean animals in the levitical law, such as pigs or monkeys.¹⁸ All of these items appear in vaccines.¹⁹ The scripture states that "to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean,"²⁰ and instructs us not to violate the consciences of those convicted over this type of issue.²¹

For those with a sincere belief that vaccination would harm our bodies, it is a duty to God to avoid it.

4) Love of Neighbor

Jesus taught, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."²² Love of neighbor is the second commandment of our faith. It is unloving to ask those families in our community who have already experienced vaccine reactions to risk further injury. There are some families with genetic predisposition to reactions who already have one permanently disabled child and are now being asked to risk injury with their other children.

It is also unloving to force others to violate their religious beliefs.

5) God's design for the family

Children are a blessing from the Lord,²³ and are given to their parents to raise and teach them.²⁴ This is a great privilege and a serious responsibility. The Bible instructs fathers to "bring [children] up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."²⁵ There are many charges to parents in how they are to raise their children in the Bible, but no such instructions to the government. Ultimately children belong to God, and He has given the authority to make weighty decisions such as vaccination to the parents and not to the state.²⁶

6) Church Attendance

Attending church is a Biblical practice. The Bible teaches, "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together..."²⁷

Some churches have childcare centers, schools or other educational facilities on-site. In addition, some churches rent schools and hold their worship services there. Facility-based mandates do not allow unvaccinated or partially vaccinated children to come into school locations. They severely interfere in the practice of faith by discriminating against some Christian youth and preventing them from attending church or participating in church activities.

7) Christian Education

Biblically, Christians are to provide their children with a religious education.²⁸ Legally, the right of religious parents to enroll their children in schools which provide a private, religious education is also recognized.²⁹ Those who have a religious conviction against vaccines should not be excluded from private schools that provide this type of education. If we are prevented from enrolling our children in religious private schools, that is not merely a violation of medical or educational freedom, it is a violation of our religious rights.

Vaccine mandates may also prevent churches from providing religious instruction by opening a school, thus interfering with the church's faith expression.

Conclusion

The Bible is very clear that "we ought to obey God rather than men,"³⁰ and so we cannot sit idly by as laws that violate our beliefs are passed. We will keep our eyes on our "hope of glory"³¹ and even when it is difficult seek to find a way to keep a clear conscience toward God. There are multiple levels at which vaccine mandates interfere with the free exercise of religion. As Christians we oppose government coercion in this area and support free choice.

Signed, your fellow Oregonians:

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Rebekah & Theodore Charlick

James & Heather Church

Melissa & Joseph Cochran

Lauren Cook & Jason Holt

Sylvia & Pete Colasacco

LeeAnn & Michael Congdon

Kara & Michael Davis

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Sierra & Stephen Griffin

Brittney Groce

Vikki & Greg Groshong
April Guffey
Gemma & Zachary Hale
Rachel & Tom Hardy (Pastor)
Jean Hart (Ministry Team Leader & Church Usher)
Lyndsi & Forrest Holmes
Cameron & Larissa Hodgson
David & Julia Hughes
Nicole Hunter
Douglas & Melissa Huntley
Chelsea, Mark, Kyle & Emily (17) Huttinga
Ken & Charity Jenkins
Dane & Katie Johnson
Jennifer Johnson
Anna & Casey Jones
Caleb & Alexandria Joy
Christiana Klein
Susan M. Kroeker
Marissa Leigh
Brandon & Charlotte Lee (former pastors, still in church and active in Christian homeschooling)
Kylee Magarro
Ruth Ann Patterson Martens & Edward R. Martens
Andrea Solesbee McDonald
Dylan McKee
Josey McKee
Brody & Raya McMann
Jared & Michaela Michael
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Sarah & Nicholas Morace
Terese Nordvi & Francisco Camargo
Paige & Martin Norfleet
Laurie Nuske
Lesli Okorn
Stephanie Osterbauer
Karl & Margaret Oswald
Steve & Tracy Ott
Lois Patterson
Amy Peck
Mary Peeples
Stephanie Pepperling
Alicia Perez
Alex Castellanos Pfeiffer
Amy Gray Quinn

Darcy Rapoza
Kayla & Parker Ravera
Jenni Reichen
Marissa Cheri Rice
Joy Richards
Sally, Luke & Carter (15) Rogers
Amanda Saucedo
Geneva Sedlar
Jessica Joy-Shelley & Raymond Shelley
Shannon Shrock
Kaitlyn & Christopher Shipley
Kori & Tim Sing
Susan & Fred Smith
Rebekah Smits
Kelsey Spanbauer
Faith, Tammy, William & Ronald Shelley
John & JoAnn Standley
Miranda Stauder
Michelle Stensgar
Heidi & Tyson Strople
Megan & Brian Stuck
Luke & Gillian Summers
Ava Taylor
Bryan & Cortney Thomas
Chris & Debbie Tittle
Kristy & Stephen Torpey
Jaime & Jed Van Den Bosch
Alyssa Wakefield (Church Elder's wife)
Andrea Walker
Mike & Rebecca West
Brittney Waugh
Suzanne G Westfall & Greg Westfall
Nicole Wong
Jade & Thomas Wray (parish members)
Janae Yee
Kylee & Grant Younce
Becky & Duane Zingale

Endnotes

1. Exodus 20:13
 2. Genesis 4:10
 3. Proverbs 31:8-9
 4. Merk, M-M-R © II (MEASLES, MUMPS, and RUBELLA VIRUS VACCINE LIVE)
https://www.merck.com/product/usa/pi_circulars/m/mmr_ii/mmr_ii_pi.pdf
- FDA, Package Insert - ProQuad - Refrigerator Stable Version
<https://www.fda.gov/downloads/BiologicsBloodVaccines/Vaccines/ApprovedProducts/ucm123793.pdf>
5. Leiva, Rene. *A Brief History of Human Diploid Cell Strains*. The national Catholic bioethics quarterly 6(3):443-51 · February 2006
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/6704825_A_brief_history_of_human_diploid_cell_strains
 6. Ibid.
 - Wadman, Meredith. *Medical research: Cell division*. Nature 26 June 2013.
<https://www.nature.com/news/medical-research-cell-division-1.13273>
 7. Wadman.
 8. Ma, Bo et al. *Characteristics and viral propagation properties of a new human diploid cell line, walvax-2, and its suitability as a candidate cell substrate for vaccine production*. Human Vaccines and Immunotherapeutics. 2015;11(4) <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4526020/>
 9. Farnsworth, Jessica. *Development of Vaccines from Aborted Babies*.
<https://cogforlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/farnsworthvaccines.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3J8ggS2AryzrtWDAWfPu160NCYfWcrwE9r6K3PPHabeMaM5YVjuXslArw>
 10. Romans 13:14
 11. Proverbs 25:28, Galatians 5:22-23, 2 Timothy 1:7
 12. Exodus 20:14, Proverbs 5, Matthew 19:4-9, 1 Corinthians 7:2, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, Hebrews 13:4
 13. I Corinthians 6:18
 14. Genesis 1:27
 15. I Corinthians 6:19
 16. Romans 12:1
 17. Acts 15:20
 18. Leviticus 11
 19. See ingredients such as “monkey kidney cells,” “hydrolyzed porcine gelatin,” and “human albumin” in *Vaccine Excipient & Media Summary*, cdc.gov.
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/B/excipient-table-2.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0mMUycZcKCYRcRZM5SG5lOp6CF5r9f8fAnatjlvPYdxbUNfUvr95U2ASc>
 20. Romans 14:14
 21. Romans 14, full chapter
 22. Matthew 22:37-39
 23. Psalm 127:3
 24. 1 Samuel 1:27, Proverbs 1:8, Proverbs 22:6, Proverbs 29:17, Isaiah 8:18, Colossians 3:21, etc.
 25. Ephesians 6:4
 26. Of course, parental authority is forfeited in situations of criminal abuse. Abusive behavior towards little ones is condemned in the strongest of terms in the Bible, which underscores the importance of one’s responsibility to one’s children (Luke 17:2).
 27. Hebrews 10:24-25
 28. Deuteronomy 11:18-20, Psalm 78:5-7, Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4, 2 Timothy 2:15
 29. *US Constitution*, Amendment 1.
Pierce v. Society of Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, 268 U.S. 510 (1925).
UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education 1960, Article 5.
“It is essential to respect the liberty of parents and, where applicable, of legal guardians... to ensure in a manner consistent with the procedures followed in the State for the application of its legislation, the religious and moral education of the children in conformity with their own convictions...”
http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=12949&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html
 30. Acts 5:29

31. Colossians 1:27