

Certificate of Religious Exemption

Check Vaccine Declined:

- Sars-CoV-2 (Covid 19)

Statement of Exemption:

I am seeking a religious exemption from the COVID-19 vaccine requirement because of my sincerely held religious beliefs explained below.

As a Christian, I believe every person is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). I believe God created the body with an immune system that can heal itself from every disease, virus, and bacteria. I believe each person is responsible before God to take care of their own body through exercise, a proper diet, and a vibrant spiritual and emotional lifestyle.

As a believer in Christ, I believe my body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. The Bible reads, "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) God is commanding me in the Bible to "glorify God in [my] body and in [my] spirit." I take these commands very seriously.

God made my body to heal itself through my natural immune system. Recent research examined the medical records of 673,676 Israelis (the most vaccinated nation in the world), 16 years and older. The study charted their infections, symptoms and hospitalizations between June 1 and August 14, 2021. They found those vaccinated were 6 to 13 times more likely to experience the Delta variant compared to unvaccinated people who had previously been infected with SARS-CoV-2. The research went on to show, natural immunity afforded longer lasting and stronger protection against infection, symptomatic disease and hospitalization. "It's a textbook example of how natural immunity is really better than vaccination," Charlotte Thalin, a physician and immunology researcher at Danderyd Hospital and the Karolinska Institute, told Science Magazine (August 26, 2021). In another assessment of 32,000 people in the same health system, the risk of developing symptomatic COVID was 27 times higher among the vaccinated and an 8 times higher chance of hospitalization than those with natural antibodies who had not been vaccinated (Science, *ibid*).

I am extremely careful, and exercise personal freedom in deciding what I will put into my body and bloodstream. As a Christian, I am not opposed to medicine that has been proven over time to be effective in combating disease. All forms of healing, whether by medicine or through our natural immune system are a blessing from God. But I am opposed to pharmaceuticals that are injected into the body without clear evidence and time-tested verification, to be effective.

Data released week ending Sept. 12, 2021, by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) showed between Dec. 14, 2020 and Sept. 3, 2021, a total of 675,593 adverse events following COVID vaccines were reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). The data included a total of 14,506 deaths. There were another 88,171 reports of serious injuries, including other reports of death during the same time period.

According to recent statistics it is estimated only 10% of adverse effects from the COVID vaccine are actually being reported by doctors and hospitals. The numbers above could be, conservatively, 10

times higher. With the lack of normal vaccination testing processes being followed (average new vaccination 7 years of testing; COVID vaccine 9 months), the untold injuries that could result over the next few years is incalculable and uncertain. As a Christian, I cannot conscientiously participate in an injection when I am aware of such potential risks. With a record of less than 1% deaths from COVID-19 to most people, the cure is much more dangerous than the disease.

Additionally, I believe that receiving any COVID-19 vaccine would violate the Bible's command to honor God with my body because of the involvement of fetal stem cell lines in the COVID vaccines' development (Johnson & Johnson) and testing (Moderna and Pfizer). See David Prentice, Ph.D., COVID-19 Vaccine Candidates and Abortion-Derived Cell Lines, Charlotte Lozier Institute, June 2, 2021, <https://lozierinstitute.org/update-covid-19-vaccine-candidates-and-abortion-derived-cell-lines/>. My Church teaches that a developing fetus in the womb was created by God and is a life that deserves to be protected. See, e.g., Psalm 139. Therefore, receiving a COVID vaccine would violate my deeply held beliefs about, first, honoring God in caring for my body, and second, advocating for the protection of sacred life. See Proverbs 31:8-9, Jeremiah 22:3, James 1:27.

As a Christian, I am opposed to abortion because I believe every human life is sacred, and created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27, 9:6; Leviticus 26:1; Deuteronomy 4:23, etc.) The COVID-19 mRNA vaccines are using fetal cell tissues derived from aborted fetuses. As a believer in Christ, I cannot condone abortion, and I am vehemently opposed on principle to this vaccine. This clearly defies my conscience as a Christian. I do not believe in the sacrifice of infants in any form for any reason (See 2 Kings 17:7; 23:10; Jeremiah 7:30-31, etc.).

In conclusion, as a Christian, I believe God has given me a strong immune system that produces disease fighting antibodies. The science, the evidence, and the statistics are clear, the COVID-19 vaccination is less effective than my natural immune system. I believe I am responsible to God for what I put in my body, and the statistics are clear that the COVID-19 vaccination is proving to not be a safe vaccination. I also believe that the use of fetal tissues from aborted babies goes against my conscience as a Christian, for I believe everyone, even the unborn are created in the image of God.

I acknowledge that I have read this document in its entirety.

_____ Date: _____
Printed name of Religious Exemptee

_____ Date: _____
Required Signature of Religious Exemptee

_____ Date: _____
Pastor, Lifeway Church, Dacula, Georgia

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