

Friday, August 06, 2021

Hello,

Hope you are doing well and enjoying the blessings of our Great God!

Sadly, in the last couple of weeks we have heard more and more hospitals, universities, businesses, government agencies, military, etc. stating that the COVID Vaccination is a requirement for continued employment or attendance.

It is heart breaking knowing that these same individuals that served so valiantly with courage and determination when there was no vaccine, are now being told that they are not worthy of employment if they do not get a vaccine.

I want to be clear. Getting a vaccine is a personal decision. Each individual, as an American, has the right to make this determination for themselves. If someone wants to get the vaccine, they have the right. If someone chooses not to get the vaccine, then that is their right. To dictate this with so many uncertainties is un-American.

We are quickly forgetting our own history. In the 1900's many Americans were targeted for sterilization. Even the Supreme Court in 1927 upheld the State's rights to forcibly sterilize a person considered unfit to procreate. This compulsory action is one of the great sins of our nation.

One may rightfully say that these two issues are not the same. It is true that vaccinations have a place in our society. But the issue that is the same is the idea of compulsory action. Forcing citizens to do something against their own conscience when it does not violate the law is wrong!

I have reached out to our State Bishop and he has a letter available stating that "*we do recognize our members' individual religious rights to conscientiously object to receiving the Covid-19 vaccination.*" This is similar to the rights of individuals who conscientiously object to serving in the military. This is a long standing right of Americans.

If you have need of this letter then please contact the office and we will proceed with getting our State Bishop to issue you a letter for your employer, etc.

These are difficult times. I encourage you...support each other. If your family, friends, or neighbors want the vaccine, be gracious. If your family, friends, or neighbors don't want the vaccine, be gracious. Don't let our government's compulsory actions determine how you treat those that God has put in your life.

Romans 12:9 – 18 "9 Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. 10 Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in

honoring each other. 11 Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. 12 Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. 13 When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. 15 Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all! 17 Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. 18 Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone." [NLT]

Blessings,

Pastor Byerly

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