
THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND MY SALVATION OF WHOM SHALL I BE AFRAID?

Examining Mandatory Vaccinations in the Light of Scripture and with the Confidence of Faith

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Paper Delivered to the St. Croix Conference on 9.8.2020

- ❖ *Do not participate in fruitless deeds of darkness. Instead, expose them. (Ephesians 5:11 EHV)*
- ❖ *Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. (Proverbs 31:8)*
- ❖ *Rescue those being led away to death... If you say, "But we knew nothing about this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it?" (Proverbs 24:11-12)*
- ❖ *We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (Luther's Small Catechism)*

INTRODUCTION

"Sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me." This pithy phrase would have us believe that hurtful words and name calling have no impact on us. Yet the truth is, no one enjoys being the target of someone's verbal attacks and we will often go out of our way to avoid insults.

Name calling and derision are not confined to an elementary school playground. Adults simply are better at masking their ill intent with quick jabs and passive aggressive statements. In the court of public opinion, a powerful tool for swaying views and developing groupthink is to isolate the opposition and brand them with derogatory names. Any biologist or astronomer who questions evolutionary theory is quickly labeled "anti-science" and branded with a scarlet letter in the world of academia. A politician who opposes homosexual marriage is labeled a "hater." A loving Christian husband who believes from Scripture that God has called him to be the head of his household is labeled a "misogynist."

We recognize that our association with Christ and his Word of Truth will result in vile insults. Jesus warned his disciples, **"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first"** (John 15:18). It is only by God's gracious power that we can withstand the insults of the world and speak the truth

despite verbal assaults. A new pastor must quickly develop thick skin or he will be swayed by human opinions rather than stand unflinchingly on God's unchanging truth.

There are times, however, when name calling and accusations can silence legitimate debate within the family of believers. No WELS pastor wants to be labeled a legalist nor have his orthodoxy called into question. Perhaps the opinion of the world means very little to a typical pastor but the opinion of his peers matters tremendously. In writing this paper, I recognize that I am departing from a prevalent and powerful worldview that has saturated our society, not only here in America but across the globe. I also recognize that this paper will likely not win the accolades of the majority of my fellow pastors here within the St. Croix Pastor's Conference. I am willing to stand alone as long as my conscience is convicted and guided by the light of God's Word. My prayer in presenting to you today is that I may open the door for a legitimate discussion within our church body on the topic of religious exemptions for vaccinations.

Perhaps by starting this conversation someone might immediately label me an "anti-vaxxer." For those who prefer to use sanitized labels, I have fallen prey to "vaccine hesitancy." In case you were unaware, the World Health Organization has listed vaccine hesitancy in the top 10 threats to global health, just behind Ebola and ahead of HIV.¹ To be clear, I am not conceptually against vaccinations. But the fact that I even call into question the rather ambitious CDC immunization schedule (children today will receive over 400% more shots than most of you ever received²), the fact that I question the safety, efficacy and testing of vaccines, and the fact that I oppose the morally repugnant sourcing of cell lines used in developing vaccines has earned me the title of "anti-vaxxer."

Most "anti-vaxxers" that I know have a personal story to tell. Many of them have a child who suffered a vaccine related injury. For my wife and I, the journey to our current position came long before our oldest son was born. After suffering the heartbreaking loss of four children due to miscarriage and having no explanations or solutions from our doctors, we began to pursue alternative health care options. We know that correlation does not equal causation and we trust God's perfect timing but interestingly, after undergoing these changes, we have now been blessed with four healthy, and extremely active boys. This anecdotal evidence cannot be a substitute for medical advice from a doctor, but hopefully it helps you to better understand our journey in asking questions and seeking alternative solutions.

Before our oldest son was born, we did minimal research into vaccines and decided to do a revised schedule that excluded shots for diseases with a low mortality rate³ and those that we deemed

¹ <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/ten-threats-to-global-health-in-2019>

² <https://thetruthaboutvaccines.com/vaccine-schedule/>

³ Example, chickenpox (the varicella vaccine) has a mortality rate of less than 0.00004% (<https://www.cdc.gov/chickenpox/surveillance/monitoring-varicella.html>)

superfluous.⁴ However, we planned to get him vaccinated for diseases such as polio and measles. At his 4 month wellness appointment, he received his DTaP and nearly immediately afterwards suffered from a high fever. It was a Friday when he received this shot and during the next two days he cried and screamed nearly nonstop with only brief intermittent sleep.

At that time, we did not know about VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System) for reporting reactions such as this. We certainly did not know (nor would we pursue if we had known) about the Vaccine Injury Trust Fund which has paid out over 4 billion dollars since 1989 to families who have children who were injured by a vaccine.⁵ Nor did we have any idea that the National Childhood Vaccine Act of 1986 protects vaccine manufacturers from all liability. Needless to say, we quickly learned that our situation was far from an isolated event. There were thousands of other families who experienced similar and, sad to say, more severe adverse events, including death.

The purpose of this paper is not to explore the safety or efficacy of vaccines. I do, however, share our story because it demonstrates what many of the families in your congregations may have experienced. If a parent in your congregation or school is vocal about their concerns, please keep in mind the 8th Commandment and take their words and actions in the kindest possible way. The media likes to portray anti-vaxxers as crazy conspiracy theorists. The truth of the matter is most of them have a personal story to share and they have likely done considerable research. Their convictions are not haphazard but well-thought out.

VACCINE INGREDIENTS

Rather than consume precious time at a pastor's conference debating the safety and efficacy of vaccines, let us turn our attention to the main purpose of this paper which is to explain an ethical concern that many individuals, such as myself, hold. After my son experienced this adverse reaction to the vaccination, my wife and I began to thoroughly investigate the ingredients of vaccines. We were primarily concerned about adjuvants and thimerosal but our investigative search revealed a startling truth. I'd like you to try something with me. Let's do a Google Search for the ingredients of the varicella vaccine (for chickenpox). One of the first websites⁶ listed in the search results is from Merck, the company that manufactures this vaccine. Go ahead and click on the link and go to page 3 of the viewable PDF. On this page you should find the ingredients. Notice that one of the inactive

⁴ Example, the hepatitis B vaccine is administered at birth. Hepatitis B is generally contracted through sexual intercourse, sharing needles or from mother to child.

(<https://www.webmd.com/hepatitis/digestive-diseases-hepatitis-b>) In a case where the mother is in a committed monogamous relationship and does not have hepatitis B, why is the vaccine given to a newborn?

⁵ https://www.salon.com/2018/12/23/federal-vaccine-court-quietly-pays-out-billins_partner/

⁶ <https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/Consumers/cmi/v/varivax.pdf>

ingredients listed is residual components of MRC-5 cells including DNA and protein. Any concerned parent reading through the ingredients of a vaccine will likely glaze over this since it sounds rather benign. But just in case you don't know what MRC-5 cells are, let's continue our search. A quick search on the MRC-5 cell line will likely take you to Wikipedia which states, "MRC-5 (Medical Research Council cell strain 5) is a diploid human cell culture line composed of fibroblasts, originally developed from research deriving lung tissue of a 14 week old aborted Caucasian male fetus."⁷ You can read more about JP Jacobs and his preparation of this cell line at the link below.⁸ The 27 year old mother was in her second trimester when her 14 week old son was aborted. His body was then dissected and eventually a suitable cell line was taken from his lung tissue. Most likely, this healthy 14 week old boy was not the only aborted baby used to develop the MRC-5 cell line.

Let's consider another common vaccine, the MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) vaccine. Dr. Stanley Plotkin and his research team at the Wistar Institute and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia developed the rubella vaccine (also produced by Merck). In order to isolate the cell lines used in the development of the rubella vaccine, Dr. Plotkin's team carefully dissected 76 aborted babies.^{9 10}

In 2017, a mother and her ex-husband went to court regarding whether or not to vaccinate their two year-old daughter. The mother refused to vaccinate their child citing health and religious concerns. Dr. Stanley Plotkin (whom some refer to as the father of vaccines) was called in as a witness. Let's take a moment to listen to some of Dr. Plotkin's deposition.¹¹

Many pro-choice candidates repeat the mantra, "rare, safe and legal" when discussing abortion. 61 million babies since Roe vs. Wade doesn't exactly seem to justify using the word "rare." Yet, somehow, this mantra continues to be repeated by the pro-choice community. Similarly, there is an oft repeated narrative that is used by physicians, media and even within our own church body that there were only two babies aborted in developing vaccines in the current CDC schedule. Such a claim, however, is simply erroneous and ignores medical records, scientific journals and current events. Here are some of the cell lines used for the development of vaccines; WI-38, MRC-5, RA-27/3, HEK-293, IMR-90, PER-C6 and WALVAX-2. To an investigative parent who is reading vaccine ingredients before immunizing a child, these letters and numbers appear harmless. But these letters and numbers represent real children who were ripped from their mothers' wombs while their

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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MRC-5#:~:text=MRC%2D5%20\(Medical%20Research%20Council,old%20aborted%20Caucasian%20male%20fetus.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MRC-5#:~:text=MRC%2D5%20(Medical%20Research%20Council,old%20aborted%20Caucasian%20male%20fetus.)

⁸ https://vacunasaep.org/sites/vacunasaep.org/files/jacobs-1976_doi10.10160092-11577690018-4.pdf

⁹ Boué A, Hannoun C, Boué JG, Plotkin SA. Cytological virological and chromosomal studies of cell strains from aborted human fetuses. *Proc Soc Exp Biol Med*. 1966;122(1):11-16. doi:10.3181/00379727-122-31037

¹⁰ <https://www.docdroid.net/8zJh4QQ/1-11-18-matheson-plotkin-pdf#page=343>

¹¹ https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2623&v=o06qJA0kjww&feature=emb_logo (begin at 45:00)

hearts were still beating. Their various body parts, lungs, kidneys, tongue, etc. were then dissected and used to culture a virus. With over 240 new vaccines in the pipeline,¹² it begs the question, how many additional babies are currently being utilized for research and development? Recent testimony from Planned Parenthood indicates that there is a rather lucrative market for aborted baby body parts.¹³ In fact, any researcher can purchase cell lines from aborted fetal tissue through companies like ATCC Global Bioresource Center located in Manassas, Virginia.¹⁴

HOW DO WE RESPOND?

One would assume that Christians who hold to the sanctity of life from conception through natural death would be vocal in their opposition to such research and development of vaccines that utilize cell lines derived from aborted fetuses. However, there is a shocking silence from many within the pro-life community. Perhaps that silence is attributed to many who are unaware of the source of the cell lines. In recent conversations with rather well-educated Christians I heard one say that she thought the cell lines were taken from the umbilical cord and didn't realize that they were derived from aborted fetuses. Another Christian thought that the virus was cultured in egg proteins.

Nevertheless, there are many pro-life Christians who are well aware of the sourcing of these cell lines. Many are becoming increasingly vocal about this issue. Websites like Lifesitenews.com have repeatedly drawn attention to fetal tissue research and vaccine development, especially most recently as a race to develop a COVID-19 vaccine has leading candidates that include the HEK-93 or PER-C6 cell lines.^{15 16}

*[Note: In the following section, I am intentionally **not** citing my sources. This is because I want to give my fellow brothers in the ministry the benefit of the doubt and I want to give them time to rethink their position]* Though our own church body has acknowledged the unethical development of many vaccines, it nevertheless has not publicly spoken against the continued research and development of vaccines that utilize cell lines from aborted fetuses. A common justification among WELS pastors is that every person and product is ultimately tainted by sin (Isaiah 64:6 is often quoted). The reasoning goes like this, if you

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<https://www.pharmacytimes.com/publications/supplements/2019/August2019/new-vaccines-in-the-pipeline-2019>

¹³

<https://pregnancyhelpnews.com/planned-parenthood-leaders-admit-under-oath-to-harvesting-body-parts-from-babies-born-alive>

¹⁴ <https://www.atcc.org/>

¹⁵ <https://lozierinstitute.org/an-ethics-assessment-of-covid-19-vaccine-programs/>

¹⁶

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/us-bishop-vows-to-refuse-covid-19-vaccine-if-made-from-aborted-fetal-tissue>

purchase a new truck, the salesman, the manufacturer, the CEO of the company, etc. all may have been driven by greed. They may not have all paid employees a fair wage. Nevertheless, it is not necessarily a sin to purchase this truck simply because others had sinned in manufacturing and selling the truck. Pastors apply this line of reasoning to the vaccine issue. They claim, “just because a vaccine was developed through sinful methods, does not mean that it is wrong for us to receive it.”

Consider, however, if there is a difference between developing a product with sinful motives versus developing a product through sinful means? Would you purchase a truck that you know was stolen? Would you purchase a product that was developed through murder? If you needed an organ transplant, would you purchase one on the blackmarket knowing that it was obtained from someone who was murdered?

Another common response by pastors is that vaccines serve the greater good. They utilize Philippians 2:4 as a proof passage, **“Not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”** These pastors encourage members to vaccinate their children (despite conscientious objections) so that they do not endanger the lives of others by potentially spreading a disease.

At face value, this is a powerful argument. Perhaps many of you espouse this view. But let’s examine the merits of this argument in light of Scripture. Immediately after the Apostle Paul urged the believers in Philippi to look to the interests of others, he pointed them to the attitude of Christ Jesus, **“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness”** (vs. 6,7). The infinite Son of God confined himself to the womb of his virgin mother. By virtue of his miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit, he had a unique DNA sequence. His Father knit him together in his mother’s womb. He developed a beating heart, a spinal column, lungs and kidneys just as other developing babies do. He developed a fully-functioning immune system producing antibodies and T Cells that could quickly respond to pathogens. Nevertheless, as a little child, Jesus in his human nature was subject to all the sicknesses and diseases to which other children were susceptible. He willingly chose to live in a world tainted by sin. **“He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death.”** (vs. 8)

The Incarnation, in addition to the biblical doctrine of Creation, is a powerful reason to cherish human life from conception to natural death. The Son of God shared in our humanity! His sacrifice and resurrection assure us of a bodily resurrection on the Last Day. God desires not just the salvation of our souls but of our bodies as well. This good news is powerful motivation to look to the interests of others and serve them in humble love. The interest of others includes not just those that we can see with our eyes but also the lives of preborn children.

Should a Christian mother, who has a conscientious objection to vaccinating her child due to the attenuation of fetal cell lines, be compelled by Philippians 2:4 to sin against her conscience? Footnote 3 mentioned that chickenpox has a mortality rate of less than 0.00004%. Furthermore, numerous medical studies have demonstrated the correlation between a decrease in childhood chickenpox cases and an increase in shingles in teenagers and adults. “As more and more children were vaccinated against chickenpox - and the varicella virus was no longer widely circulating throughout society - the incidence of herpes zoster increased.”¹⁷ Consequently, that Christian mother could easily use Philippians 2:4 to *not* vaccinate her child against chickenpox. She can point out that supporting Merck and a vaccine industry that has a disregard for the sanctity of life prior to birth, is not looking to the needs of others. She can point out that trying to eradicate a rather common and non-life threatening childhood disease is only exacerbating a problem for the elderly as there is a precipitous rise in shingles cases. Indeed, her **“looking to the interests of others”** includes the pre-born and the elderly and is not limited to the well-being of her child or other children who associate with her child.

DIFFERING WORLDVIEWS

Many of the doctors who developed vaccines (such as Dr. Stanley Plotkin) have an atheistic evolutionary worldview. Their mission is to eradicate disease through the innovations of mankind (consequently, the ever increasing number of vaccines). As Bible believing Christians, we recognize that ever since the fall into sin, all of creation has been groaning under the curse of sin. Though we may seek remedies to sicknesses and try to prevent diseases, we recognize that we will never be able to completely eradicate them. Often, as we eradicate one disease, we see the drastic rise in another disease. We live in a world filled with risks. Consequently, a Christian may often struggle with difficult decisions as they weigh out pros and cons of a particular treatment or preventative measure.

2 Samuel 24 and 1 Chronicles 21 record the account of King David who **“sinned greatly”** and did a **“very foolish thing”** (2 Samuel 24:10) as he took an unauthorized census of his fighting men. The Prophet Gad confronted King David and presented him three options. **“Shall there come upon you three years of famine in your land? Or three months of fleeing from your enemies while they pursue you? Or three days of plague in your land?”** (vs. 13). David responded, **“I am in deep distress. Let us fall into the hands of the LORD, for his mercy is great; but do not let me fall into human hands.”** (vs. 14)

A Christian parent, who in faith chooses not to vaccinate, recognizes that the choice includes a risk. But perhaps like King David, that parent is falling into the hands of the LORD, whose mercy is

¹⁷ Miller, Neil Z. “Critical Vaccine Studies” New Atlantean Press, Santa Fe, New Mexico. 2016. Pg 153

great, rather than putting trust in companies that are profiting off of the sale of products derived from morally repugnant sources.

Prior to the birth of Moses, Pharaoh ordered Shiphrah and Puah to put to death any male child. By this point, Pharaoh had already shown himself to be ruthless. Shiphrah and Puah knew that disobeying Pharaoh could potentially result in their death and perhaps the death of other innocent Israelites. Yet verse 17 declares, **“The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live”** (Exodus 1:17). Like the three men in the fiery furnace, these brave midwives were willing to defy a dangerous despot because they feared, loved and trusted in God above all things. **“They did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.”** (Revelation 12:11)

To reiterate, a Christian parent who prayerfully chooses not to vaccinate recognizes that the choice includes a risk. But, to quote Luther, to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. For, **“everything that does not come from faith is sin”** (Romans 14:23). Fear of God, trumps fear of a disease, fear of human consequences, yes even fear of death. To try to coerce such a parent to sin against their conscience with a claim that they are doing it for the greater good is a fallacious argument. It presupposes that the end justifies the means. Not to mention, it is based on the presupposition that the end result is truly good. The World Health Organization claims that 2 - 3 million lives are saved each year due to vaccines.^{18 19} Yet they also indicate that there are an average of 56 million abortions worldwide each year.²⁰ To be clear, 1 out of every 4 pregnancies worldwide are terminated by an abortion. I will let you determine, what is a greater threat to life, vaccine hesitancy or the abortion industry? Will you fault Christians who oppose vaccines that are developed through cell lines derived from aborted fetuses when they are standing on a principled pro-life platform?

¹⁸ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/immunization-coverage>

¹⁹ I am unsure of how this figure is calculated. One article co-authored by Leonard Hayflick, who assisted in developing the WI-38 cell strain, claims that this cell strain has saved 10.3 million lives globally. The number is ascertained by holding the disease specific death rate constant from 1960-2015. To hold the death rate constant ignores the medical advance in therapeutics, the greater availability of freshwater, sanitation, nutrition and vitamins. It would be similar to using Professor Ferguson and the Imperial College model which had predicted over 2 million COVID-19 deaths in the United States and then claiming that draconian measures like the lock down and mask mandates have saved 1.8 million lives. Ultimately, these numbers are impossible to either prove or disprove. They are just a guess.

²⁰ <https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/news/440KeyAbortionFactsFinal.pdf?ua=1>

VACCINES IN OUR WELS SCHOOLS

Within the WELS, there are currently 304 Lutheran Elementary Schools and 393 early childhood ministries.²¹ This means that there are thousands of children who must receive their regular immunizations per the CDC schedule and submit their records to their school. There are literally hundreds of thousands of shots given to the children of our schools. Let's take a quick look at the Immunization form for Minnesota.²²

Enter the dates for each vaccine your child has received to date. Specify the month, day, and year of each dose such as 01/01/2010.

Immunization Form

Name _____ Birthdate _____

Immunizations required for child care, early childhood programs, and school.

Vaccine	Birth to 6 months	12 -24 months	At Kindergarten	At 7th grade	At 12th grade
Hepatitis B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP, DT, Td)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Pneumococcal (PCV)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Polio	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Chickenpox (varicella)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Hepatitis A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Meningococcal (MCV4)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Minnesota law requires children enrolled in child care, early childhood education, or school to be immunized against certain diseases, unless the child is medically or non-medically exempt.

- Hepatitis B** - MRC-5 cell line (14 week old aborted male fetus)
- DTaP** - MRC-5 cell line (see above)
- Hib** - MRC-5 cell line (see above)
- Polio** - although we don't know how many aborted fetuses were used in the development of this vaccine, consider this quote from The Journal of Virology.
Sabin and Olitsky used various carefully dissected tissues of 3- to 4-month-old human embryos, e.g., brain and cord, lungs, kidney, liver, and spleen. The virus was the already mentioned MV (mixed virus) strain of the

²¹ <https://wels.net/about-wels/history/numbers/>

²² <https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/basics/imzform.pdf>

Rockefeller Institute, a virus mixture prepared by H. L. Amoss in 1914 and kept for decades through numerous intracerebral passages in monkeys.²³

MMR	- RA -27/3, WI-38 cell line (12 week-old aborted female fetus)
Varicella	- MRC-5 (see above)
Hepatitis A	- MRC-5 (see above)

Some states do not provide exemptions for religious beliefs or philosophical views.²⁴ Most, however, still offer a religious and philosophical exemption.²⁵ As citizens of both a heavenly kingdom and also an earthly kingdom, our schools must either collect immunization records or have an exemption form on file. I indicated at the outset of this paper that I prayed that this would open a door for a legitimate discussion within our church body. So here are a few discussion points for your consideration:

1. Have we been pressured by our society to place a stigma on families who choose not to vaccinate a child for conscientious reasons? I recognize that it may be hearsay but I have heard horror stories from families and students of all ages in our WELS schools who have been chastised by teachers and peers for having raised questions and stating objections to vaccines.
2. Can we as pastors assist with informed consent? Informed consent is an important component of our healthcare system. Patients need to be able to understand a procedure or treatment (including vaccines) before consenting to it. When there are moral issues connected with a procedure or treatment wouldn't you want to be involved in helping share information and assisting the individual with analyzing it in light of Scripture? If a teenager asked you questions about a morning after pill, would you simply say, "talk to your doctor about it"? If a couple had questions about embryonic storage and in-vitro fertilization, would you brush off their question and say you'll leave it to the experts? Or would you research it and help the teenager and assist the couple in applying God's Word?
3. Since our schools must require parents to submit either an up-to-date immunization record or an exemption, might this be an open door for including factual information regarding fetal cell lines? It may be improper for a school or church to give medical advice and to discuss the efficacy or safety of vaccines. But it is very much the role of spiritual leaders to speak to unethical medical practices. Doctors and nurses will not speak to this issue. A largely pro-choice media will not draw attention to this issue. So if we don't draw attention to it, who will?

²³ Eggers H. J. (1999). Milestones in early poliomyelitis research (1840 to 1949). *Journal of virology*, 73(6), 4533–4535. <https://doi.org/10.1128/JVI.73.6.4533-4535.1999>

²⁴ California, Maine, Mississippi, New York and West Virginia

²⁵ <https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/school-immunization-exemption-state-laws.aspx>

When I first began to write this paper, the topic of mandatory vaccinations was simply within the sphere of children attending childcare centers and schools. Since March, however, the sphere has expanded due to COVID-19. As various vaccine manufacturers race to get their vaccine on the market, many people are now debating whether or not the vaccine should be mandated for people of all ages. Attorney Alan Dershowitz, a Harvard Law School professor emeritus, went viral when he made the statement, “And if you refuse to be vaccinated, the state has the power to literally take you to a doctor’s office and plunge a needle into your arm.”²⁶ In a later debate with Robert Kennedy Jr. about this topic, he qualified this statement and stated the need for safety and efficacy studies that included a controlled placebo group. Although this debate is fascinating and well worth your attention,²⁷ it nevertheless did not address religious concerns regarding the use of HEK-93 and PER-C6 cell lines.

If the vaccine issue did not seem relevant to you last year at this time, hopefully, the events of the last six months have brought it to your attention. Is the day approaching when those gathering for worship must present proof of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine before they are allowed to enter? Will we claim that this is the loving thing to do?²⁸ Does love compel someone to be injected with thimerosal, adjuvants, HEK-293, formaldehyde, a weakened strain of SARS-CoV2 and a few other ingredients? Will we believe a narrative that says life cannot return to normal until a vaccine is available, meanwhile we stay silent about an industry that has put to death approximately 10,000 times more children in our country this year than COVID-19?²⁹ Will we put our confidence in an industry that has partnered with the abortion industry in testing and developing vaccines through fetal cell lines? Will we put our trust in a vaccine industry that is exploiting our nation’s fears and profiting³⁰ from an unquestionable faith in a vaccine to save the world? Will we continue to support

²⁶ <https://www.newsmax.com/us/coronavirus-vaccines-alan-dershowitz/2020/05/19/id/967964/>

²⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfmJi7yLKgE> (accessed on August 27, 2020)

²⁸ A recent statement by BioLogos calls for all Christians to receive the vaccination and uses Matthew 25:31-36 as the proof passage.

²⁹ <http://www.numberofabortions.com/> and <https://data.cdc.gov/NCHS/Provisional-COVID-19-Death-Counts-by-Sex-Age-and-S/9bhq-hcku> both accessed on Thursday, August 27 at 5:57pm. At that time there were 566,271 children put to death by a surgically induced abortion (the number excludes chemically induced abortions) in the United States in 2020. On that same day, the CDC website listed 57 total deaths for children 0-14 due to COVID-19.

³⁰ Many of the top executives for Moderna (leading COVID-19 vaccine candidate) are selling their stock. Tal Zaks, the chief medical officer for Moderna, just cashed out on all of his Moderna stock making over \$18 million dollars. Begging the question, if he believed his company’s vaccine works, wouldn’t he hold on to the stock until it is approved and available for use?

<https://www.statnews.com/2020/05/27/moderna-executives-cashed-out-shares-stock-price-soared/>

an industry that has often used orphans,³¹ the mentally handicapped³² and women in third-world nations³³ as test subjects for experimental vaccines? I implore you to prayerfully consider these questions and be prepared to assist your members in answering them as well.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

On four different occasions my wife and I sat in a room with a nurse or doctor and stared at the ultrasound image in disbelief. Each of these occasions was preceded by a visit where a healthy heart beat was already heard loud and clear. But then, for whatever reason, somewhere around 12-16 weeks that heart stopped beating. There was nothing any doctor, specialist or we could do to save those children. We cried and grieved their loss and at times we struggled with anger and doubt. But God refined our faith through the process and we trust his perfect plans.

Each one of those babies was about the same age as the babies who were intentionally pulled from their mothers' wombs and used as a science project to develop some of the vaccines in use today. I couldn't stop my children from dying, but I can stand up for the lives of the unborn who are still being forcibly murdered in the name of choice, convenience and the greater good.

Rescue those being led away to death... If you say, "But we knew nothing about this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it?" (Proverbs 24:11-12). Perhaps some of you were completely unaware of the unethical origins of the cell lines in use. Perhaps some of you are incredulous and doubt my research. I don't know your positions on this topic, but I can challenge you to research it for yourself. Check out my sources. Do some critical thinking as you read counter arguments.

I'd welcome the opportunity to have a discussion panel with pastors, scientists and doctors who are on both sides of this issue. I recognize that there may be diverse viewpoints and there are many who have administered vaccines with a heart of Christian love thinking that they were doing the right thing. I do not question their motives. But I am asking that they, and many others, be willing to listen to the reasons and motivation of those who are choosing not to vaccinate. As fellow brothers and sisters in the faith, we can gladly take our neighbors words and actions in the kindest possible

³¹ <https://www.docdroid.net/8zJh4QQ/1-11-18-matheson-plotkin-pdf#page=346>

³² Plotkin SA, Farquhar JD, Katz M, Buser F. Attenuation of RA 27-3 rubella virus in WI-38 human diploid cells. *Am J Dis Child*. 1969;118(2):178-185. doi:10.1001/archpedi.1969.02100040180004

³³

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/mass-sterilization-kenyan-doctors-find-anti-fertility-agent-in-un-tetanus-vaccine/5431664>

way and learn from each other. I also believe that we could come up with positive solutions together.³⁴

Furthermore, I pray that God the Holy Spirit will teach us to show grace to one another. As we look to Christ Jesus, who shared in our humanity in order to rescue us from a world cursed by sin, we find the motivation to let go of self-interest, pride and judgmental attitudes. In Christ Jesus we can be quick to listen and slow to get angry.

“For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary.” May the Incarnate Christ, who shared in our humanity, lead us to treasure and protect all life from conception through natural death. Even more importantly, may he inspire us to share his great gift of eternal life as we proclaim his Word of Truth.

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³⁴ We don't need to live in a world where the only option is not to vaccinate or to use a vaccine that was developed by using fetal cell lines. Many companies have changed what they do because of consumer pressure. Companies now talk about being eco-friendly or paying a fair wage. They have been pressured by consumers to do certain things. Couldn't we apply this to the vaccine manufacturers? What would happen if instead of labeling anyone who raises an objection as an "anti-vaxxer," we instead saw value in putting pressure on vaccine manufacturers to ensure safe and ethically derived vaccines? Wouldn't the market correct itself because of consumer pressure?