

Calvary Christian Fellowship of Tucson



3850 N. Commerce Dr. - Tucson, AZ 85705 <https://www.calvarychristianfellowship.com/>

To whom it may concern:

Calvary Christian Fellowship is a non-denominational Christian Church in Tucson Arizona. It has been our joy to serve the greater Tucson community for the past 27 years. Since our inception we have been recognized as a 501c-3 non profit organization in harmony with both state and federal guidelines.

As a Bible based Christian church we acknowledge and affirm in our bylaws that our faith and practice as a corporate body and as individuals must be in harmony with both the Old and New Testament scriptures. (See II Timothy 3:16-17)

As a governing board, the leadership of Calvary Christian Fellowship has been asked to provide letters providing a Scriptural basis for and a request for a religious exemption from mandatory COVID 19 vaccine requirements. These requests have come from health care providers, first responders, teachers, engineers, as well as those serving in the armed forces, The following is an explanation of the biblical basis that allows our church to stand with those who for conscience and convictions sake respectfully request such exemptions.

While it is true that the dilemma of using a vaccine is a modern issue that the Bible, due to the fact it was written before the advent of this technology, does not address directly, there are examples and principles that are germane to this issue.

One of the most important issues concerning the COVID 19 vaccine for Bible believing Christians is the fact that the vaccines used to treat COVID 19 emerge from fetal tissue experimentation as a result of abortion. The Bible states that our human lives are made in the image and likeness of God, and as such are worthy of the giving of respect, dignity and defense from violent harm. (Genesis 9:5-7) This life begins at conception (Psalm 139). For a believer to benefit from the violent death of the most defenseless among us (a pre born child) is in direct contradiction to these Biblical principles.

A Bible believing Christian also sees the body God has created for them as a gift from God that requires careful maintenance and responsibility. We are called to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God which is our reasonable service of worship to Him (Romans 12:1-2). This act of being a living sacrifice involves choices as to what we will allow in our bodies. In Daniel 1:8 we

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see that although certain dietary requirements were mandatory for the service to the king, Daniel saw this as an affront to his sincerely held convictions and so requested an exemption. Because of the ties to aborted fetuses, as well as medically supported discoveries about the superiority of natural immunization after exposure to COVID 19, Bible believing Christians have desired to opt out of these artificial and spiritually questionable means.

The Bible also tells us that there are issues where we will disagree as Christians about matters of personal practice - particularly where there is no definitive "Thou shalt" or "Thou shalt not" command or instruction. At that point, a Christian is to rely on the leading of their conscience (See Romans 14, especially verses 1-5) When a believer knowingly violates this personal boundary, they find themselves in a place of serious spiritual danger. (I Timothy 1:19)

The person submitting this request to you does so because they are, as a member of Calvary Christian Fellowship, in harmony with the above principles. They wish to continue their service to God, country and their fellows while exercising the personal character and commitment that will make them an asset to their branch of service.

We, as a leadership board at Calvary Christian Fellowship honor and support their convictions. We would ask respectfully that the decision makers regarding this appeal for exemption based on spiritual grounds would do so as well.

Sincerely,

For the Board of Calvary Christian Fellowship of Tucson