

Belief System

I have been a follower of Jesus Christ for a long time. As in any relationship, the dynamics change over the years. In recent years, my walk with the Lord has grown stronger and my dependence on Him has increased. In the course of this closer relationship, I have found that my need for obedience to the Lord has grown as well and I accept this as a natural progression in my personal relationship with God.

According to Jeremiah 7:23 'But this is what I commanded them, saying, Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you will be My people; and you will walk in all the way which I command you, that it may be well with you.'

Therefore, my belief as to the importance of abiding by God's Word and Direction has also greatly influenced a change in my belief system, which admittedly has been gradual, but now is at a place that I can no longer deny that there are certain issues I must directly address in order to remain obedient to His Word.

All Christian direction comes from the Bible which is the direct revelation of God to His people. As stated in the Bible in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 'Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.'

I am very aware that my body, soul and life were gifted to me by God. I make every attempt through my life and lifestyle to honor and glorify God by doing His will in all aspects of my life. Included in that is the protection provided for the temple which is my body that belongs to Him and Him alone. If my body is ill, I do seek medical attention for that particular ailment. However, God's abundant grace allows me to maintain good health. To inject a vaccination in my body when illness has not compromised it represents an inability to depend on God for my health, implies a design flaw in God's plan and does not align with my belief system of obedience to God. This remains consistent with the Biblical teachings that tells me in

Psalms 118:8 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust man.'

And in Psalms 139:13-14 'For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.'

The results of not caring for that temple in a Godly manner is reflected in 1 Corinthians 3:17 'If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him, For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.'

For the Lord assures me in Exodus 15:26 'If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your healer.'

I trust the Lord to care for my body, mind and soul and provide me with the direction needed to maintain this precious gift. Therefore, in order to maintain obedience to God, as a Christian who accepts the duty to care for God's temple, and live a Godly life, I cannot allow my body to be desecrated by receiving a vaccination as it represents lack of faith in His perfect plan as the Almighty and lack of obedience to a God whom I have dedicated my life to.

Sincerely,

Tami Hartlaub