

## **My Deeply Held Religious Belief About My Body and My Conscience**

Scripture makes it clear that God's temples are places of great importance in the relationship between God and man. God dwells in the Temple, and there a man communes with Him. God speaks harshly of, and deals harshly with, those who defile his temple. (Jeremiah 7:1-15)

The Temple is defiled when it is used in ways that distract from its purpose, that deny the glory of God, that invite sin, that lower God from His place of dominance in the life of the believer, that reduce his trust in God's plan and ultimate control over his life, or that by these means or others corrupt his relationship with God.

Because I am a believer in Jesus Christ, His Holy Spirit (part of the Holy Trinity) dwells within me. My Body is His Temple. (1 Corinthians 6)

I must use my body to glorify God. I must do this to the best of my ability, employing my God-given reason and attempting at all times, in good faith and under varying circumstances, to do what pleases Him.

For the sake of relationship, God has shared with us His image and likeness. We look like Him in some respects, and we are like Him in others. He has given us many of His own attributes in small doses. Our innate sense of what is right, and our freedom to act upon it, are two of those attributes. They impose upon me a duty to act in accord with my conscience.

My conscience tells me I cannot take any of the available Covid vaccines. There are several reasons for this:

1. Abortion is a grave evil. I cannot participate in it or benefit from it, even remotely. Where there is any question about whether the covid vaccines have made use of fetal tissue, in their manufacture or even in their testing, I cannot morally involve myself.
2. Unlike other measures that can be reasonably taken to avoid illness, willingly receiving the vaccines into my body defiles God's temple in the following ways:
  - A. The vaccines act at a genetic level that invades the province of God. Our genetic physiology is His design, extraordinarily complex as only He could make it, and understood only as He can understand it. Our understanding is shallow. I cannot morally participate in tinkering with a powerful and dangerous thing, within this temple, that we poorly understand.
  - B. The acceptance into my body of any of the available covid vaccines would place my trust in Man over my trust in God. This defiles His temple.
  - C. My duty to God is to reasonably preserve my health, not endanger it. There is evidence available, and worthy of consideration, that the vaccines are dangerous to my body.
3. Conscience must be informed. The vaccines have been hastily configured and inadequately tested. Many fair and important questions remain. A sufficiently informed decision cannot yet be made. Taking the vaccine at this point is a morally careless act.