

Hello,

My name is Lindsey Laszewski. I'm an ordained clergy member and am currently getting a doctorate in Christian ministry at a seminary in NY. 19 years ago I had a life transforming encounter with Jesus and as such I now try to live my life in accordance with what He says. My husband and I are raising our children in hopes that they too will commit to following Jesus as well. I recently served as a pastor of a church and regularly tried to help people determine what it looks like to follow Jesus in our day and age which can be complicated to determine as the Bible doesn't specify everything in black and white terms. That being said, I'd like to share three reasons why I don't want to see the current law changed in regards to religious exemptions.

Body is a temple

As I have done research into vaccines I've discovered that certain diseases are not even fatal when treated here in the US (measles is one such example) and yet the vaccination for measles carries a risk to our bodies. I have a duty to my God to care for my body, which according to the Bible is His temple (His house).

Questionable ingredients/aborted fetal cells in vaccines

I've sat with many women who chose to have abortions when they were young. I've cried with them as I've listened to their stories of suffering infertility when they then felt ready to have a child. I've cried with them as they express guilt over their decision or they struggle to celebrate the life of their recently born baby because they can't stop thinking about the one who was never born. To think that the state wants to mandate that I inject my children with a substance that came from someone's painful, difficult and wrong choice disturbs me. I am not accusing women who make that choice but rather stating that it feels like an assault on my religious beliefs to mandate that in order for my children to attend public school they have to be injected with a vaccination that was literally built off the backs of aborted children. Is this not what the first amendment protects me of?

This is not to even mention people of other faiths such as Buddhism who do not take the life of any animal and practice vegetarianism. To discriminate against their children by barring them from public education or forcing them to be injected with substances from a medically sacrificed animal seems wrong and a total loss of their religious freedoms.

Vaccines for Sexually Transmitted Diseases

I believe that God created sex to give us a picture into our relationship with Him and as such He prescribes certain ways to celebrate sex in order that it draws people closer to Himself. One such way is that He designed sex to take place in a covenantal relationship bc He is a covenantal God promising to never leave us nor forsake us. Having said this, a vaccination then which is for sexually transmitted diseases offends me because anyone who makes the choice to follow Jesus won't be having sex until/unless they choose to marry, like my spouse and I. Therefore, a mandated vaccination for an STD is an unnecessary exposure to toxins. Why does the state get to either force my children to take a vaccination they don't/won't need as a teenager or bar them from public school? If they would have to be injected with unnecessary toxins in order to attend "public" school than that school is no longer public. And if that's the case I'd like my taxes back.

Thank you.

Reverend Lindsey Laszewski

