



November 19, 2021

PUBLIC DECLARATION BY HISTORIC BAPTIST CHURCH  
REGARDING MEDICAL TREATMENTS, INCLUDING IMMUNIZATIONS AND VACCINES  
AMENDMENT TO THE CHURCH'S BYLAWS.

NSD 11/19/21

REV 11/19/21

ARTICLE XIII. Medical Procedures.

The membership of Historic Baptist Church herein states its position in respect to receiving medical treatments, including immunizations and vaccines. As a result of the recent state of government pressure to conform to an agenda that is inconsistent with our faith, we set forth the following religious positions, in accordance with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and our Lord's commandments.

Based on the teachings of the New Testament by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who is our *Great Physician* (see Matthew 11:5) and King, and who said in Matthew 9:12, "They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick," we shall, by God's grace and wisdom, use medicines and vaccines as God leads; and that according to every believer's individual conscience.

We state clearly and publicly our choice to accept or reject medical treatments, including immunizations and vaccines, is wholly a matter of conscience and religious conviction. This is not to say that such risks as are associated with some treatments and vaccines are not to be weighed also. For these reasons, each believer must seek the Lord's will individually in determining what is best for himself, according to the will of God.

We also affirm that in certain cases there may be use for a doctor's care, according to Paul's statement in Colossians 4:14: "Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you." However, we must seek God's wisdom first before treatment (see Mark 5:26; Luke 8:43; 2 Chronicles 16:12; Job 13:4, etc.)

Consequently, we declare publicly our positions as follows:

1. First, we are not against emergency medical treatments that would be used to save lives in certain life or death situations.
2. We are not against medical treatments, when such treatments do not violate our consciences, and when these treatments are earnestly researched, prayed over, and sanctioned by the Bible (see James 1:5; 5:14).
3. We believe and affirm, that God promises to protect his obedient children from disease and sickness according to Deuteronomy 7:15.

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4. We believe and affirm, that God has given his children the way to deal with sickness according to James 5:14-15.
5. We believe and affirm, that God can heal miraculously, according to his will according to Philippians 2:26-27 and Acts 28:8, etc.
6. We believe and affirm, that God's children must go to God first in seeking health, and follow God's leadership for maintaining health, according to Matthew 13:15.
7. We believe and affirm, that God is always good, and he can and will heal according to his will. Furthermore, healing and safety are in the hands of the Lord, not man; and we can trust God wholeheartedly, according to Psalm 103:1-5
8. We believe and affirm, that God will sometimes use sickness to prove or chastise his children, in an effort to bring them into obedience. Although not always the case, if sickness is a result of sin in a believer's life, that believer should learn from his chastisement and respond rightly before the Lord, confessing and forsaking his sins, according to 1 Corinthians 11:26-32; 2 Corinthians 21:14-19; Proverbs 28:13; etc.
9. We believe and affirm, according to Paul's experience in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, that God also uses sickness to increase a believer's faith and reliance upon God.
10. We believe and affirm, that God sometimes uses plagues to chastise unbelievers, according to Revelation 9:20-21, and some believers may see immunizations and vaccination as an attempt to thwart God's work. We, therefore, have as a response God's promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14.
11. We believe and affirm, according to Leviticus 17:11, that the life of the flesh is in the blood, and as believers we must take special caution when doing anything that affects our blood.
12. We believe and affirm, that our bodies are not our own, that we believers are bought with a price, and that price being Christ's perfect, pure, and sinless blood. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Ghost and as such we must glorify God in our bodies, according to 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. Seeing our bodies belong to the Lord, we must seek his permission and his will before taking a vaccine or undergoing any medical treatment.
13. We believe and affirm, that the life of a believer is in the hands of our God, that everyday is a gift of God, and accordingly we trust God for life, in life, and in death. If the Lord wills, we shall live, and do this, or that. See James 4:13-17.
14. We believe and affirm, that God's people are destroyed for lack of knowledge according to Hosea 4:6; and that as believers we should thoroughly research any medical treatment before submitting ourselves to it. We must evaluate and consider the effects of submitting to – or not submitting to – the procedure or vaccine, taking into consideration our families, our personal health, the word of God, prayer, and the leadership of the Holy Ghost. This is a matter of our consciences and our religious convictions.

We, therefore, the membership of Historic Baptist Church, do commit before God to follow these guidelines:



- I. We wholeheartedly accept that each member may submit to medical treatment or immunization as he or she sees fit, according to his or her conscience. See Romans 14:4.
- II. We will not harbor any hate, bitterness, or ill-will against any brother or sister based upon their choices for health treatments. See John 13:34; 15:12; 1 Peter 1:22, etc.
- III. We shall not judge a brother or sister for what they choose to do or not to do in respect to their conscience in matters of medical treatments. See Matthew 7:1-12.
- IV. We will not treat any member differently because he or she is or is not vaccinated. See James 2:1; 1 Peter 1:17.
- V. We will cooperate and live peaceably with the state as commanded by God, except in matters of the leading of the Holy Spirit, our relationship with God, our consciences, and our obedience to God's commandments. See Acts 5:29; Romans 12:18; Titus 3:1; Romans 13:1-5; 1 Timothy 2:1-4.

These amendments to our bylaws, by the Grace of Jesus Christ, are officially approved and adopted immediately by Historic Baptist Church, November 21, 2021, by unanimous vote of the church, members present and voting.

Witnessing:

*[Signature 11/21/21]*

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N. Sebastian Desent, Ph.D., Pastor of Historic Baptist Church

*[Signature 11/21/21]*

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Michael E. Carrier, Associate Pastor, Historic Baptist Church

*[Signature 11/21/21]*

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Obadiah M. Desent, Associate Pastor, Historic Baptist Church

*[Signature 11/21/21]*

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Robert A. Silva, Trustee, Historic Baptist Church