

- QUESTION #1. Should Christians submit to a mandated vaccination?**  
 ..... Yes |  No |  Maybe |  Don't Know |  Depends
- QUESTION #2. Is it a sin to disobey a Government (Govt) mandate?**  
 ..... Yes |  No |  Maybe |  Don't Know |  Depends
- QUESTION #3. Any consequences to disobeying a Govt mandate?**  
 ... Unable to Shop, Dine, or Travel?  Jail?  Loss of Job or Life?

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- When COVID-19 hit the U.S. early in 2020 hospitals were soon inundated with patients laying on gurneys in their hallways, death rate was approaching 10%, and because it was highly communicable and affected multiple countries around the world, it was declared a global pandemic
- Covid death rate exceeds Flu death rate by more than 10x and hits mainly adult age groups, especially those with high morbidity factors (e.g., heart disease, diabetes, and obesity); whereas for a "normal" flu season the death rate is typically below 1%, affecting predominantly the elderly
- Many world governments coordinated efforts to protect their societies and economies by implementing travel restrictions and mandating social distancing, wearing of masks, and most recently vaccinations

**ARGUMENTS FOR COVID VACCINATION**

- Statistics show Covid vaccines are proving successful to keep most out of the hospital, off the ventilator, and out of the morgue
- Covid vaccines are very targeted to a specific virus or variant, whereas flu vaccines are admittedly more of a hit or miss concoction

**ARGUMENTS AGAINST COVID VACCINATION**

- Available information and statistics seem very biased and questionable
- There has not been enough evidence or time to validate vaccine safety
- Policies are made based more on fear & ignorance rather than on facts
- It seems to be a political control issue more than a health or choice issue
- It seems to show a lack of faith in God to protect us from all harm
- And it is perceived to be a precursor to taking the "Mark of the Beast"

**MEDICAL IRONY – CHRISTIANS ARE NOT SPARED FROM**

**CONTRACTING AND DYING FROM COVID**..... Mat 5:45

Biblical Considerations to Obey the Good Laws of Men	
<b>Prov 28:9 [Prayers don't get answered]</b>	He who turns away his ear from heeding the law, even his prayer is an abomination.
<b>Matt 5:13-18 [We need to preserve society's morals &amp; set the example]</b>	You are salt of the earth [preserver]...and the light of the world [example]. So, let your good works be seen by others for them to give glory to God.
<b>Rom 13:1-4 [When we intentionally violate good laws we deliberately do evil and sin against God]</b>	Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore, whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.
<b>1Cor 7:19 [What is important in life?]</b>	Circumcision and uncircumcision are nothing, but what matters is keeping God's commandments.
<b>James 4:17 [To disobey is sin]</b>	To one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.
<b>1Peter 1:15-16 [We are to be holy in all we do]</b>	Like the Holy One who called you, be holy in all your behavior [through obedience]; because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."
<b>1Peter 2:13-14, 17 [Obey the good laws of the land]</b>	Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.
<b>1John 5:3 [Love = obedience]</b>	If we love God we will keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

Good Govt Laws	Biblical Teachings	God's Commands
• Pay Taxes	• Submit yourselves to every human institution	• Pay Taxes
• Put Seatbelt On	• Be in subjection to the governing authorities	• Put Seatbelt On
• Stop at Red Lights	• Obey Man's Laws if not in conflict with God's Laws	• Stop at Red Lights
• Obey Speed Limit		• Obey Speed Limit
• Wear clothes in public		• Wear clothes in public
• No Vax – No Job ???		• No Vax – No Job ???

**QUESTION #4. What Can the Church Do?**

- **OPTIONS.** God's Church has the following options to consider when faced with a decision to oppose or support government rulings:
  - ♦ Path of Least Resistance: Do Nothing, Say Little, Stay Neutral
  - ♦ Oppose the Government (either whole-heartedly or half-heartedly)
  - ♦ Support the Government (either whole-heartedly or half-heartedly)

**DID YOU KNOW:** The Apostles, Paul and Peter, wrote their admonishments to obey the government while Christianity was illegal under Roman Law and while living under tyrannical rulers (e.g., Nero). Peter and others went to jail &/or died for upholding their convictions.....Acts 5:18-29; Acts 7:59

Other Biblical Considerations
<b>Luke 16:8.</b> This is a true saying, the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light
<b>Acts 5:29:</b> Peter & other apostles said, "We must obey God rather than men"
<b>1Cor 10:33.</b> Paul did not seek his own good but the good of the many
<b>1Tim 5:23.</b> Take a little wine (i.e., medicine) for your frequent illnesses

**BIBLICAL INSIGHT ON PLAGUES AND PESTILENCES**

- There are over 100 Bible passages on plagues & pestilences.
- It is God who ravishes a nation or the world with plagues and pestilences, not Satan – and the righteous often die alongside the wicked
- The main purpose for plagues is to turn hearts and minds back to God
- To put things in perspective, recent statistics from christian.org.uk depict more than 1.8M died from Covid worldwide in 2020. In contrast, 42.6M died in abortions (more than cancer, heart disease, and Covid combined)
- In the future, God will use war, famine, & plagues to wipe out 25% or ~2B of mankind before His return (Rev 6:8). So, we haven't seen anything yet.

**TO OBEY OR NOT TO OBEY – THAT IS THE REAL QUESTION**

**Motivation to Obey the Government's "Good" Mandates.** Every time we obey the smallest of God's commands we reap untold rewards...Rev 22:12.

- Imagine the rewards waiting for us every time we obey the Govt-mandated speed limit? Plus, every time we obey God's commands, more of our prayers get answered, we become good examples to live by, we have no reason to fear authority, we become holy as God is holy, we position ourselves for praise from men and more blessings from God, and we show our love for God and respect for His institutions and for the lives of others.
- If we can get more Christians to see the need to willingly and intentionally obey "good" Govt mandates/policies/rulings/laws, we restore our saltiness to positively impact society and to address more complex issues.
  - ♦ Naturally, ungodly mandates/policies/rulings/laws should be contested by God's people (e.g., abortion and same-sex marriages)
  - ♦ Fortunately, we live in a free society where we can challenge authority. So, Christians do need to discern when to challenge & when to obey.

**QUESTION #5. What else is needed to give credence to this vaccination mandate? .....** More Time?  More Deaths?  More Statistics?

**QUESTION #6. Where in Scripture does it say we only need to obey Govt mandates when they suit us, or when they do not rile us?**

**QUESTION #7. What if the Vaccine proves harmful over time?**

- We can obey the speed limit & still have an accident that's not our fault
- God then takes responsibility to ensure all things work out for our good
- But if we speed or refuse to get vaccinated, and we get hurt or die as a result, we can only blame ourselves. God is not obligated to help us out.

**Thoughts from an ICU Nurse Who Caught Covid Twice, once before vaccines were available and once after being vaccinated:**

- Covid pandemic is real, substantially killing more than the flu, straining health care resources not for a season, but for the past 2 years.
- Use of a mask and social distancing work to protect you and others
- Vaccines work to protect you, not others
- Once you land in the hospital on a Bipap or a Ventilator due to Covid your chances of making it back home alive are infinitesimally small
- **Therefore, Be Responsible:** Wear a mask, practice social distancing, and consider getting vaccinated.

