

RELIGIOUS & MEDICAL EXEMPTION FROM FORCED MASK WEARING

To Whom It May Concern,

I hereby assert my right to a medical/religious exemption from forced mask wearing. As a Bible believing Christian I *cannot* in good faith be forced to wear a mask against my will without violating my faith and risk 'psychological' damage. Moreover, any business or establishment that attempts to deny my exemption is in violation of U.S. Federal Law. The *Civil Rights Act 201, Title II* guarantees me FREE and EQUAL ACCESS to all facilities and services available to others without discrimination. **Denying me entry would be the equivalent of asking a Muslim to take off their turban or telling an LGBT person they must wear a cross around their neck or be refused entry.**

Why?

1) Genesis 1:28 says man was made in the "image of God". Forcing Christians to wear masks conceals the image of God causing us to lose our identity as the Children of God. We cannot allow that. **Our individual faces are unique to God and are sacred to our beliefs.**

2) Jesus seeing the image of Caesar on a coin told his disciples to "render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Mark 12:17). Indeed, government has the legitimate authority to tax its citizens and make various laws, but it does *not* have the right to coerce Christians into covering their faces against their will. Neither do businesses. **Our faces mirror God's image and therefore belong to God alone.**

3) Christians are called to be a "light unto the world, a city upon a hill that should not be hidden" (Matthew 5:14). Wearing a mask prevents us from ministering the light of love to others through our smiles and other comforting facial expressions so desperately needed today. We will not put a basket or *mask* over our light and disobey the teachings of Christ. Make no mistake about it, those demanding that everyone wear a mask are targeting Christians. They are dishonoring the image of God and creating an "us against them" (masked vs. unmasked) paradigm **using health and human services as a shield to cover their discriminatory acts.**

4) Covid-19 has a 99.98% survival rate. Forcing us to wear masks forces us to **involuntarily submit to and promote irrational fears.** Revelation 21:8 says the "fearful" shall not enter into the kingdom of God.

In short, Bible believing Christians like myself, have both spiritual and *medical* reasons why we cannot wear masks. This is because spiritual health *effects* our medical health. You may not agree with or understand this. I'm not asking you to. **Medical reasons preventing me from wearing a mask are private and are protected under HIPAA and the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990).** Therefore, I choose not to elaborate any further.

Though the claim is being made that mask mandates don't target Christians for discrimination, one will discover that the vast majority of **politicians and businesses mandating masks have a track record of animosity towards Biblical Christianity.** And though they may claim mask wearing is scientific and is for health reasons, it is really a *religious symbol/piece of clothing* that they are trying to impose upon others through fear and intimidation tactics. If successful they will feel as though their pseudo-scientific *religion of fear* has defeated Biblical Christianity. I cannot go along with that.

Respectfully,
Pastor Ben Heath