

## 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 violates 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 faces are unique and are an important reminder of our humanity.**

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). So indeed, the government has legitimate authority to tax its citizens and make various laws; we are okay with that. However, the government does *not* have the right to deface or violate the image of God. And forced mask-wearing does just that because our **faces are made in God's image.**

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 cannot disobey the teachings of Christ by putting a basket (mask) over our light.

4) Make no mistake about it. Those who favor mandatory mask-wearing are targeting Christians **while hiding behind 'faulty science' and manipulating data to cover their discriminatory acts.** They have no regard for the IMAGE OF GOD.

So, Bible-believing Christians like myself have both spiritual and *medical* reasons why we cannot wear masks. This is because spiritual health affects 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.

And though the claim is being made that mask mandates don't target Christians for discrimination, one will discover that most **politicians and businesses mandating masks have a track record of animosity towards Biblical Christianity. At the same time, they support anti-Christian groups like LGBTQ and Black Lives Matter.** And though they may claim mask-wearing is scientific and is for health reasons, it is a *political and religious symbol* that they are trying to impose upon others through fear and intimidation tactics.

I cannot submit to their pseudo-scientific pagan *religion of fear.*

Respectfully,  
Pastor Ben Heath