

A Position Letter from the Elders at Grace Community Church
Regarding Religious Objections, Matters of Conscience, and Medical Guidelines

As Christians, we believe that there is only one true, eternal, triune God, and that He is the God of all creation. We further believe that the one true God has created all things that exist and that He has made humanity in His image. We believe that God became flesh in the Person of Jesus Christ to accomplish the salvation of those who would believe in His name. We believe that Jesus Christ has been given all authority in this life and in the life to come, and He thus exercises all authority, in all realms, at all times, and in all things.

We believe that God has revealed Himself to humanity and has provided sufficient revelation concerning Himself to His children that they might know and love Him. We believe that God has taught us about Himself primarily and definitively through the means of Scripture, and that Christians are thereby bound by the teachings of Scripture above any other authority or rule. Scripture is authoritative in all that it addresses, and it informs every facet of the Christian life.

We believe that as the children of God, we are called to live lives that are pleasing to the God we serve. This includes living lives which flee from those things which God prohibits, and likewise living lives that strive toward those things which God commands. There are some things which are neither explicitly commanded nor explicitly prohibited within Scripture which are subsequently matters of the Christian conscience. These matters of Christian conscience are neither inconsequential nor superfluous but are binding upon the conscience of the believer, even constituting sin if the believer acts against their own conscience in these matters. Therefore, for the individual Christian, these matters of conscience are to be regarded as spiritually binding even while charity is to be exercised concerning others in these matters.

Therefore, we ask that you regard this member of our church body as having the responsibility to abide by the convictions of their conscience in these matters, having arrived at their own conclusions regarding their religious convictions concerning medical guidelines and the subsequent actions which accord with those convictions. We ask that you consider their convictions as binding matters of personal religious conscience which are compulsory upon their response, and we likewise ask that you honor their religious liberty and freedom with religious exemption as it may be requested in these matters.

Signed,

the Elders of Grace Community Church
Battle Creek, MI
Soli Deo Gloria