

Viewpoint: ‘There is no legitimate Christian doctrine-backed case for vaccine mandate exemptions’

According to the Civil Rights Act, [vaccine] exemptions are meant to apply to people with “sincerely held religious beliefs,” and on both counts — religious belief and sincerity — the exemption demand fails when it comes to coronavirus vaccine mandates for Christians.

First, there is no actual religious basis for exemptions from vaccine mandates in any established stream of Christianity. Within both Catholicism and all the major Protestant denominations, no creed or Scripture in any way prohibits Christians from getting the vaccine. Even the sect of Christian Scientists, which historically has abstained from medical treatment, has [expressed openness](#) to vaccines for the sake of the wider community. The consensus of mainstream Christian leaders — from [Pope Francis](#) to [Franklin Graham](#) — is that vaccination is consistent with biblical Christian faith.

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We need to keep trying to persuade those hesitant to get a vaccine. But we also need to allow employer vaccine mandates to erect a trustworthy shield that protects staff members, patients, customers, students and others. Religious exemptions risk blowing a hole in that shield, jeopardizing everyone.

[**This is an excerpt. Read the original post here.**](#)