

SPIRITUAL VACCINATIONS

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A debate over requiring vaccinations for children has been ongoing for several years. Over the years many vaccines have been developed to provide immunity, or resistance, to disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends several vaccines for kids up to six years of age. Proponents say that vaccinations are safe, and that many serious illnesses have been prevented and lives saved. Opponents say a child's immune system can deal with most infections naturally, and that vaccines have questionable ingredients that may cause severe and deadly side effects. Parents, weighing the pros and cons, have to make the best decision for their own children.

THE SPIRITUAL DISEASE OF SIN

Sin is a deadly spiritual disease. Sin is the transgression of the law of God (1 Jn. 3:4) and separates us from God (Isa. 59:1-2). Sadly, all have sinned (Rom. 3:23), and the wages of sin is death (6:23). It will cause one to be lost eternally in hell (Matt. 25:46).

The only thing that can cure us of the scourge of sin is the blood of Jesus. His blood cleanses us from sin and its crippling guilt (1 Jn. 1:7, 9). This divine cleansing is applied when we believe and are baptized into Christ (Acts 22:16; Eph. 5:26).

RESISTING SIN

Spiritual "vaccines" can help us resist sin and its deadly affects. Consider some things we can do:

- ◆ **Absorb God's Word.** The Psalmist wrote, "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against you" (Psa. 119:11). Dwelling on the revealed word of God will help keep sin out of our minds and lives.
- ◆ **Practice Righteousness.** If we stay busy doing good, we will not take opportunity to practice sin. "Whoever has been born of God does not sin" (1 Jn. 3:9). This is describing one who "practices righteousness" (v. 7). One will not pursue a sinful life if they are pursuing the righteous will of God.
- ◆ **Fight Against Evil.** We must not be uninformed or apathetic about the dangers around us. We have to fight back – "Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (Jas. 4:7). "Resist him, steadfast in the faith" (1 Pet. 5:9). Put on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:10-17). Let us stay as resistant to sin as possible!!