

Abortion is a sin and a curse over health care and our nation and the nations of the world. The bloodshed of innocent lives has defiled the land of health care and continues to do so. Abortion is a perversion of all that God meant health care to be. Health Care is meant to save lives and care for people created in the image of God with His compassion and love.

God demonstrated this care as he created woman from Adam's side. He anaesthetized him and cared for every aspect of his person as well as providing a helpmate for him. Throughout the Bible we see God's care and concern for mankind culminating in Jesus being moved with compassion and healing all who came to Him.

The church established the first hospitals in the Byzantine Empire, in the 4th Century AD in response to Jesus command to heal the sick and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.' Luke 10:9 . These hospitals called 'xenon' were usually attached to the churches and many of the priests and bishops were the physicians who personally attended to the needs of the sick.

Health Care has a Godly foundation but it is not acknowledged. Perhaps the greatest problem with our health system is that Christ is not acknowledged as the healer and is shut out of hospitals and health centres. Since the Enlightenment, we have accepted the philosophy that health care should be a purely secular system and that the Lord Jesus Christ should have no involvement in the care of the sick.

This is not a Biblical worldview. The Bible clearly says that, Christ is in all and through all and over all. A Biblical or Hebrew worldview does not differentiate between sacred and secular. Christ is intimately involved with and cares for each person; His desire is to see them whole in every aspect of their lives. He is an integral part of their healing.

Instead of acknowledging the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord of health care, we have placed a false Christ figure, Asklepios or Aesculapius the Greek and Roman god of healing as the one that we honour. It is his symbol, the serpent entwined on the caduceus that is used in the logos of the health systems of this nation and around the world.

This idolatry has opened the door for the ungodly in health care and in particular for the spirit of death that is evidenced in abortion and the movement to legalize euthanasia in our nation. Health care workers who perform abortions are blinded by the spirit of this world and deceived into believing that they are meeting the felt needs of the woman. They accept that life does not begin until the second trimester and that abortions done before this time are acceptable because of this arbitrary line drawn in time.

Recently, in Sydney, Pope Benedict asked, "How can it be that the most wondrous and sacred human space – the womb – has become a place of unutterable violence?" I would add, how can it be that health care workers committed to healing and wholeness participate in this violence?

Many years ago the Lord gave us an understanding of three strongholds in health care from Is 2: 6-11. This passage speaks of:

- the pagan roots of medicine

- the wealth and pride of medicine
- the idolatry of medicine itself and scientific intellectualism.

God wants these strongholds overturned and the idolatry cut off from health care. He desires to renew the foundations of health care and restore it inline with Biblical principles.

Transforming health care may be a daunting prospect but God has mercifully set us an example of incredible change to the health systems of many nations including ours. Florence Nightingale saw the hospitals in the Crimea and Great Britain in a pitiful state in the 1850s. It was largely through her insight that they were cleaned up and transformed so that healing could occur. She then went on to transform health care in the nations of the British Empire and eventually the world.

Our prayer is that God will again move sovereignly in health care to reform it and bring it in alignment with His redemptive purposes.

Prayer

Father God,

We come humbly before You and magnify Your holy Name. You are exalted far and above all rulers and authority in heaven and on earth and we worship You.

We stand together today and recognize You as the Sovereign Lord over health care and the nation of Australia. We stand as one Body, united in the Holy Spirit and called to serve the One and only Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We recognise that Christ has already defeated every enemy opposing His authority in healthcare on the Cross of Calvary. We understand that you have given us "authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy". Nevertheless, we are totally dependent on You and the power of the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

We stand in the gap and accept responsibility for the spiritual condition of healthcare. We repent of our personal and corporate sin in not acknowledging that Jesus Christ is the only Source of all health and wholeness and ask for merciful forgiveness.

We repent of our acceptance of a worldview that is opposed to a Biblical worldview. Father we ask that You will renew our minds and ask for discernment not to be taken captive by hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

We recognise that Asklepios is a false god and not deserving of any honour. We repent of accepting him in Your place in health care. We seek Your forgiveness and declare that we shall have no god but You. We cut off the influence that this pagan root has had over health care in this nation.

We repent too for the wealth and pride of medicine and health care. Father we humble ourselves before You and acknowledge our sin especially of considering ourselves to be gods in health care; of knowing all and having the power of life and

death in our hands. We repent of thinking that we know the best thing for our patients and at times overruling their own freedom to choose a course of action.

We repent that we have idolised the work of our hands and exalted scientific intellectualism over Godly principles and precepts. Father you have created man in the secret place; we are fearfully and wonderfully made. We acknowledge that in You alone are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Forgive us for our arrogance in thinking that we have discovered the secrets of the human body. Father, we humbly thank you for teaching us all of the things that bring healing and wholeness.

We repent that health care has brought death instead of life and healing. Particularly, we repent of killing unborn children created in Your image. We repent of not constantly seeking your face to see this overturned in our nation. Forgive us.

We repent as well of not fearing You in our presumption that quality of life overrides the right to life itself. We repent that we assume that we know the course that an illness will take and ignore the possibility of Your sovereign acts in people's lives. We repent of all acts of euthanasia that have occurred in this nation and we ask that You will forgive and cleanse our land.

Father, we ask for revival and transformation in health care and this nation. Enable us by Your grace, to proclaim and demonstrate the present and eternal hope of the Gospel in healthcare to the maximum extent that is possible in a broken world.

Father, we ask that you will move sovereignly in health care in this nation to reform it and bring it into alignment with Your redemptive purposes.

We declare that Jesus Christ is Lord over health care in this nation and the world! All glory and honour be unto Him! Amen.