

HEALTH CARE DEFINED

Health care is the prevention or treatment of sickness through services provided by insurance companies, hospitals, doctors, nurses, administrative staff, etc.

Universal health care is a system where all citizens of the country have health care coverage. In this system employers and employees pay into it and it is administered by government run health agencies.

CURRENT HEALTH INSURANCE SYSTEMS

1. Employer insures employee through an insurance company. Either the employer pays the whole cost or shares the cost with the employee.
2. Self-employed or unemployed pay premiums to an insurance company.
3. People over 65 are covered by Medicare which is funded by tax-payer dollars.
4. People who are insured because they qualify for federal and state funded programs.
5. People who don't have any insurance because they don't qualify for any program.

ARGUMENTS FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

1. Every citizen would be insured.
2. No one would be denied healthcare due to a pre-existing condition.

3. Public health would improve because everyone would be treated and things such as communicable diseases would be greatly reduced.
4. The present health care system is too costly.
5. Universal health care would be beneficial for small businesses.
6. Health care costs would be regulated.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

1. Adding the uninsured will overload the health care system and reduce the quality of service (long waits and overworked doctors).
2. Adding the uninsured will reduce the research on new cures.
3. If the government gets involved in health care it will cause other companies to shut down and government run health care will become the only option.
4. Where is the money going to come from to pay for it?
5. Most doctors and health care workers would be working for the government.

BIBLICAL REASONS FOR SICKNESS

1. Sickness in general is a result of living in a fallen world (Rom. 8:18-24).
2. Some sickness comes from unhealthy living (1 Cor. 3:16-18; 6:19-20).
3. Some sickness is due to sinful living (1 Cor. 11:28-32)
4. Some sickness is for God to be glorified (Jn. 9:1-3)

THE BIBLE AND HEALTH

1. Preventative Health.

First, when God gave the written laws to Moses in the Pentateuch, He prescribed certain guidelines as preventative measures to ensure the Hebrew people's health.

- Adherence to the dietary laws (Lev. 11:1-47; Deut. 14:3-21). Most of the laws about food consumption are included in the Pentateuch. Medical research has demonstrated that some animals that were prohibited for consumption in the law are especially liable to infections with parasites.
- Proper cleansing and hygiene (Num. 19:1-22). The Law of Moses required that the body and clothes be washed after contact with a diseased or dead person. The regulations about contact with dead bodies specified a period of uncleanness lasting seven days. During this time, the person involved was isolated from other people and required to perform certain acts, including bathing one's body and washing one's clothes.
- Proper disposal of human excrement (Deut. 23:12-13). There were instructions given about the disposal of human excrement. A place was set apart outside the camp for this purpose. The Hebrew people were required to carry a spade, dig a hole for the excrement, and cover it.

- Maintenance of sexual purity (Lev. 18:1-30). The were strict laws concerning sexual morality among the Hebrew people also promoted the prevention of venereal diseases. Circumcision was not only a religious rite, but also a hygienic measure that reduced infection and illness.

prevent sickness from coming upon them and the power to heal them if they got sick.

THE BIBLE AND HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS

1. Health care plans should not fund activities that violate Biblical principles such as the taking of life in the womb (Ps. 139:13-16) or domestic partner benefits (Heb. 13:4).
2. As seen in the above section on Preventative health, God desires that we take care of our bodies, therefore health care plans should fund activities that encourage preventative health and well-being (exercise, eating right, sleep, stress management, etc.).
3. Since God has special place in His heart for the poor (Ps. 68:10; 69:33; 102:17; 113:7; 132:15), a health care plan should provide coverage for the poor who are uninsured or underinsured.
4. Bible-believing Christians should be concerned that every American citizen has a way to have their health care needs met (Lk. 10:30-37). This can be through government funding, employer-employee benefits or church programs.

Second under the Preventative Health heading, Paul reminded believers in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 that their bodies are temples where God lives. He then went on to say that we should glorify God in our bodies, which translates into the fact that we should take care of our bodies. This means that we should:

- Exercise
- Eat right
- Get the proper amount of rest
- Learn how to deal effectively with stress

2. Treatment for Illness.

- The Bible speaks of wine (1 Tim. 5:23) and oil (Lk. 10:34) being used for medicinal purposes.
- Jesus implied that the sick need to be treated by a physician (Matt. 9:12; Mk. 2:17; Lk. 5:31).

3. Miraculous Healing.

- God revealed himself to the Israelites as Jehovah Rapha, “the Lord Who Heals” (Ex. 15:26). This means that he has the power to

THE BIBLE AND HEALTHCARE



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